



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 6477

LCO No. 4989

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT INCREASING THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW DRIVERS OBTAINING A LICENSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is repealed
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any
4 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant
5 has held a learner's permit and has satisfied the requirements specified
6 in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) present to the commissioner
7 a certificate of the successful completion in a public secondary school,
8 a state vocational school or a private secondary school of a full course
9 of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided in section 14-
10 36e or of training of similar nature provided by a licensed drivers'
11 school approved by the commissioner, including, in each case,
12 successful completion of not less than [eight] twelve clock hours of
13 behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction, two hours of which shall be
14 after sunset; (B) present to the commissioner a certificate of the
15 successful completion of a course of not less than five hours relative to
16 safe driving practices, including a minimum of two hours on the

17 nature and the medical, biological and physiological effects of alcohol
18 and drugs and their impact on the operator of a motor vehicle, the
19 dangers associated with the operation of a motor vehicle after the
20 consumption of alcohol or drugs by the operator, the problems of
21 alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for alcohol and drug-related
22 motor vehicle violations; and (C) pass an examination which shall
23 include a comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning
24 motor vehicles and the rules of the road and an on-the-road skills test
25 as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of application and
26 examination for a motor vehicle operator's license, an applicant sixteen
27 or seventeen years of age shall have held a learner's permit for not less
28 than one hundred eighty days, except that an applicant who presents a
29 certificate under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall have held a
30 learner's permit for not less than one hundred twenty days and an
31 applicant who is undergoing training and instruction by the
32 handicapped driver training unit in accordance with the provisions of
33 section 14-11b shall have held such permit for the period of time
34 required by said unit. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
35 approve the content of the safe driving instruction at drivers' schools,
36 high schools and other secondary schools. Such five hours of
37 instruction may be included as part of or in addition to any existing
38 instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course required under
39 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not exceed twenty-five
40 dollars. The commissioner may waive any requirement in this
41 subdivision, except for that in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, in
42 the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who holds a
43 valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any other state,
44 provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has received
45 training and instruction of a similar nature.

46 (2) The commissioner may accept as evidence of sufficient training
47 under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection home
48 training as evidenced by a written statement signed by the spouse of a
49 married minor applicant, or by a parent, grandparent, foster parent or
50 the legal guardian of an applicant which states that the applicant has

51 obtained a learner's permit and has successfully completed a driving
52 course taught by the person signing the statement and that the signer
53 has had an operator's license for at least four years preceding the date
54 of the statement or, if the applicant has no spouse, parent,
55 grandparent, foster parent or guardian so qualified and available to
56 give the instruction, a statement signed by the applicant's stepparent,
57 brother, sister, uncle or aunt, by blood or marriage, provided the
58 person signing the statement is qualified.

59 (3) If the commissioner requires a written test of any applicant
60 under this section, the test shall be given in English or Spanish at the
61 option of the applicant, provided the commissioner shall require that
62 the applicant shall have sufficient understanding of English for the
63 interpretation of traffic control signs.

64 (4) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
65 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
66 purposes of this subsection concerning the content of safe driving
67 instruction at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary
68 schools.

Statement of Purpose:

To increase training requirements for new drivers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. SCRIBNER, 107th Dist.; REP. SHEA, 112th Dist.
REP. MILLER, 122nd Dist.