



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 344

January Session, 2009

Senate Bill No. 155

Senate, March 31, 2009

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. DEFRONZO of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING TRAINING IN HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2009*):

4 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any
5 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant
6 has held a learner's permit and has satisfied the requirements specified
7 in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) present to the commissioner
8 a certificate of the successful completion (i) in a public secondary
9 school, a state vocational school or a private secondary school of a full
10 course of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided in
11 section 14-36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided by a licensed
12 drivers' school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training
13 in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each
14 case, or by a combination of such types of training, successful
15 completion of: Not less than twenty clock hours of behind-the-wheel,

16 on-the-road instruction for applicants to whom a learner's permit is
17 issued before August 1, 2008; and not less than forty clock hours of
18 behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction for applicants to whom a
19 learner's permit is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) present to the
20 commissioner a certificate of the successful completion of a course of
21 not less than eight hours relative to safe driving practices, including (i)
22 a minimum of four hours on the nature and the medical, biological and
23 physiological effects of alcohol and drugs and their impact on the
24 operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation
25 of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the
26 operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for
27 alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations, and (ii) a minimum
28 of thirty minutes concerning the responsibilities of the operator of a
29 motor vehicle in a highway work zone, the risks associated with
30 unsafe driving in a highway work zone to highway workers or state or
31 local public safety officers, and the penalties established by section 14-
32 212d for endangerment or aggravated endangerment of a highway
33 worker; and (C) pass an examination which may include a
34 comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning motor
35 vehicles and the rules of the road in addition to the test required under
36 subsection (c) of this section and shall include an on-the-road skills test
37 as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of application and
38 examination for a motor vehicle operator's license, an applicant sixteen
39 or seventeen years of age shall have held a learner's permit for not less
40 than one hundred eighty days, except that an applicant who presents a
41 certificate under subparagraph (A)(i) or subparagraph (A)(ii) of this
42 subdivision shall have held a learner's permit for not less than one
43 hundred twenty days and an applicant who is undergoing training
44 and instruction by the handicapped driver training unit in accordance
45 with the provisions of section 14-11b shall have held such permit for
46 the period of time required by said unit. The Commissioner of Motor
47 Vehicles shall approve the content of the safe driving instruction at
48 drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools. Such hours
49 of instruction required by this subdivision shall be included as part of
50 or in addition to any existing instruction programs. Any fee charged

51 for the course required under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision
52 shall not exceed an amount prescribed by the commissioner by
53 regulation, adopted in accordance with chapter 54. Any applicant
54 sixteen or seventeen years of age who, while a resident of another
55 state, completed the course required in subparagraph (A) of this
56 subdivision, but did not complete the safe driving course required in
57 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, shall complete the safe driving
58 course, and any fee charged for the course shall not exceed an amount
59 prescribed by the commissioner by regulation, adopted in accordance
60 with chapter 54. The commissioner may waive any requirement in this
61 subdivision, except for that in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, in
62 the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who holds a
63 valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any other state,
64 provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has received
65 training and instruction of a similar nature. (2) The commissioner may
66 accept as evidence of sufficient training under subparagraph (A) of
67 subdivision (1) of this subsection home training as evidenced by a
68 written statement signed by the spouse of a married minor applicant,
69 or by a parent, grandparent, foster parent or legal guardian of an
70 applicant which states that the applicant has obtained a learner's
71 permit and has successfully completed a driving course taught by the
72 person signing the statement, that the signer has had an operator's
73 license for at least four years preceding the date of the statement, and
74 that the signer has not had such license suspended by the
75 commissioner for at least four years preceding the date of the
76 statement or, if the applicant has no spouse, parent, grandparent,
77 foster parent or guardian so qualified and available to give the
78 instruction, a statement signed by the applicant's stepparent, brother,
79 sister, uncle or aunt, by blood or marriage, provided the person
80 signing the statement is qualified. (3) If the commissioner requires a
81 written test of any applicant under this section, the test shall be given
82 in English or Spanish at the option of the applicant, provided the
83 commissioner shall require that the applicant shall have sufficient
84 understanding of English for the interpretation of traffic control signs.
85 (4) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in

86 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
87 purposes of this subsection concerning the requirements for behind-
88 the-wheel, on-the-road instruction and the content of safe driving
89 instruction at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary
90 schools.

91 Sec. 2. Section 14-37b of the general statutes is repealed and the
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

93 Any applicant for a motor vehicle operator's license who has not
94 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license and
95 who does not hold a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by
96 any other state, or by any territory or possession of the United States,
97 shall be subject to the requirements of subdivision (3) of subsection (e)
98 of section 14-36 and shall be required to present to the Commissioner
99 of Motor Vehicles a certificate of the successful completion of a course
100 of not less than eight hours relative to safe driving practices, including
101 (1) a minimum of four hours on the nature and the medical, biological
102 and physiological effects of alcohol and drugs and their impact on the
103 operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation
104 of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the
105 operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for
106 alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations, and (2) a minimum
107 of thirty minutes concerning the responsibilities of the operator of a
108 motor vehicle in a highway work zone, the risks associated with
109 unsafe driving in a highway work zone to highway workers or state or
110 local public safety officers, and the penalties established by section 14-
111 212d for endangerment or aggravated endangerment of a highway
112 worker.

113 Sec. 3. Section 14-36e of the general statutes is repealed and the
114 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

115 (a) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall prepare for use in all
116 high and other secondary schools a course of study of motor vehicle
117 operation and highway safety.

118 (b) Each local and regional board of education may provide a course
119 of instruction in motor vehicle operation and highway safety on a
120 secondary school level, which course (1) shall consist of not less than
121 thirty clock hours of classroom instruction offered during or after
122 school hours as said board of education, in its discretion, may provide,
123 including (A) instruction of not less than fifteen minutes concerning
124 the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle under subsection
125 (b) of section 14-223 and the penalty for a violation of the provisions of
126 said subsection (b), and (B) instruction of not less than fifteen minutes
127 concerning the responsibilities of the operator of a motor vehicle in a
128 highway work zone, the risks associated with unsafe driving in a
129 highway work zone to highway workers or state or local public safety
130 officers, and the penalties established by section 14-212d for
131 endangerment or aggravated endangerment of a highway worker; and
132 (2) may include behind-the-wheel instruction of up to twenty clock
133 hours. Said course shall be open to enrollment by any person between
134 the ages of sixteen and eighteen, inclusive, who is a resident of the
135 town or school district or whose parent, parents or legal guardian
136 owns property taxable in such town or school district. Any such board
137 of education may contract for such behind-the-wheel instruction with a
138 licensed drivers' school.

139 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) Each basic or review police
140 training program conducted or administered by the Division of State
141 Police within the Department of Public Safety, the Police Officer
142 Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b of
143 the general statutes or a municipal police department in the state shall
144 provide a minimum of two hours of training on highway work zone
145 safety that includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1)
146 Enforcement of criminal laws involving endangerment of a highway
147 worker; (2) techniques for handling incidents of unsafe driving in a
148 highway work zone; (3) risks associated with unsafe driving in a
149 highway work zone; (4) safe traffic control practices such as the
150 wearing of high-visibility safety apparel in a highway work zone and
151 the proper location and position of law enforcement officers working
152 in such zone; and (5) general guidelines, standards and applications set

153 forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and
 154 Highways, as published by the Federal Highway Administration
 155 under 23 CFR 655, Subpart F, as amended, including, but not limited
 156 to, training on the proper use of traffic control devices and signs, and
 157 one hour of annual refresher training on such guidelines, standards
 158 and applications. The Division of State Police, the Police Officer
 159 Standards and Training Council and municipal police departments, in
 160 consultation with the Highway Work Zone Safety Advisory Council,
 161 shall develop a program curriculum and shall submit such curriculum
 162 to the advisory council for approval.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	14-36(d)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	14-37b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	14-36e
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires additional training for drivers and law enforcement officers in various aspects of highway work zone safety. This is not anticipated to result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

Sections 1, 2, and 3 require that highway work zone safety education be incorporated into mandatory driver training programs. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will be able to accommodate any additional administrative functions associated with these programs within their normal anticipated budgetary resources.

Section 4 requires that each basic or review police training program conducted by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), and municipal police departments provide a minimum of two hours of training on highway work zone safety. It is anticipated that each respective agency would be able to incorporate such training into current basic and review training curriculums at no additional cost. State police officers receive mandatory in-service training each year, and municipal police officers are required to receive 60 hours of in-service training every three years.

The Out Years

None

Source(s): Police Officer Standards and Training Council certification requirements

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 155*****AN ACT REQUIRING TRAINING IN HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the eight-hour safe driving practices training course required for certain people before they can be granted a Connecticut driver's license to contain a 30-minute component on the responsibilities of drivers in a highway work zone, the risks to workers and public safety officers from unsafe driving in such zones, and the penalties for endangerment of a highway worker. By law, the eight-hour course is required for (1) anyone under age 18 and (2) anyone, regardless of age, who has not previously held a Connecticut license and does not already have a valid license from another U.S. state or other jurisdiction.

The bill also (1) requires every secondary school driver education program to have an instruction component of at least 15 minutes on the subjects noted above and (2) requires each basic or review police training program conducted or administered by the State Police, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), or a municipal police department to provide at least two hours of training on highway work zone safety.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

REQUIRED POLICE TRAINING

The basic and review police training required by the bill must include, at least:

1. enforcement of criminal laws on highway worker endangerment;

2. techniques for handling unsafe driving incidents in a highway work zone;
3. risks associated with unsafe driving in a highway work zone;
4. safe traffic control practices such as the proper location of officers and wearing high-visibility safety apparel; and
5. general guidelines, standards, and applications in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, including training on the proper use of traffic control devices and signs and a one hour annual refresher on the guidelines, standards, and applications.

The bill requires the State Police, POSTC, and local police departments to develop a program curriculum in consultation with the Highway Work Zone Safety Advisory Council and submit it for the council's approval.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/09/2009)