



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6656

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE TEST AND ON-THE-ROAD SKILLS TEST FOR AN OPERATOR'S LICENSE AND THE RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF DRIVER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 14-36 of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

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 youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements
7 specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) submit to the
8 commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a
9 certificate of the successful completion (i) in a public secondary school,
10 a technical education and career school or a private secondary school
11 of a full course of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as
12 provided in section 14-36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided
13 by a licensed drivers' school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of
14 home training in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection,
15 including, in each case, or by a combination of such types of training,
16 successful completion of: Not less than forty clock hours of behind-the-
17 wheel, on-the-road instruction for applicants to whom a youth

18 instruction permit is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) submit to
19 the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a
20 certificate of the successful completion of a course of not less than eight
21 hours relative to safe driving practices, including a minimum of four
22 hours on the nature and the medical, biological and physiological
23 effects of alcohol and drugs and their impact on the operator of a
24 motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation of a motor
25 vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the operator, the
26 problems of alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for alcohol and
27 drug-related motor vehicle violations; and (C) pass an examination
28 which may include a comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws
29 concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road in addition to the
30 test required under subsection (c) of this section and shall include an
31 on-the-road skills test as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time
32 of application and examination for a motor vehicle operator's license,
33 an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age shall have held a youth
34 instruction permit for not less than one hundred eighty days, except
35 that an applicant who presents a certificate under subparagraph (A)(i)
36 or subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall have held a youth
37 instruction permit for not less than one hundred twenty days and an
38 applicant who is undergoing training and instruction by the driver
39 training unit for persons with disabilities in accordance with the
40 provisions of section 14-11b shall have held such permit for the period
41 of time required by said unit. The commissioner shall approve the
42 content of the safe driving instruction at drivers' schools, high schools
43 and other secondary schools. Subject to such standards and
44 requirements as the commissioner may impose, the commissioner may
45 authorize any drivers' school, licensed in good standing in accordance
46 with the provisions of section 14-69, or secondary school driver
47 education program authorized pursuant to the provisions of section
48 14-36e, to administer the comprehensive test as to knowledge of the
49 laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road, required
50 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, as part of the safe
51 driving practices course required pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this
52 subdivision, and to certify to the commissioner, under oath, the results

53 of each such test administered. Such hours of instruction required by
54 this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition to any
55 existing instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course required
56 under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not exceed one
57 hundred fifty dollars. Any applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age
58 who, while a resident of another state, completed the course required
59 in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but did not complete the safe
60 driving course required in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, shall
61 complete the safe driving course. The commissioner may waive any
62 requirement in this subdivision, except for that in subparagraph (C) of
63 this subdivision, in the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years
64 of age who holds a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any
65 other state, provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant
66 has received training and instruction of a similar nature.

67 (2) The commissioner may accept as evidence of sufficient training
68 under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection home
69 training as evidenced by a written statement submitted to the
70 commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs. Such
71 statement shall be signed by the spouse of a married minor applicant,
72 or by a parent, grandparent, foster parent or legal guardian of an
73 applicant, and state that the applicant has obtained a youth instruction
74 permit and has successfully completed a driving course taught by the
75 person signing the statement, that the signer has had an operator's
76 license for at least four years preceding the date of the statement, and
77 that the signer has not had such license suspended by the
78 commissioner for at least four years preceding the date of the
79 statement. If the applicant has no spouse, parent, grandparent, foster
80 parent or guardian so qualified and available to give the instruction,
81 such statement may be signed by the applicant's stepparent, brother,
82 sister, uncle or aunt, by blood or marriage, provided the person
83 signing the statement is qualified.

84 (3) [If the commissioner requires a written test of any applicant
85 under this section, the test shall be given in English or Spanish at the

86 option of the applicant] The knowledge test for a class D motor vehicle
87 operator's license required under this section may be administered in
88 such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio,
89 electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be
90 administered, at the option of the applicant, in English, Spanish and at
91 least thirty-four other languages as prescribed by the commissioner,
92 provided the commissioner shall require [that] the applicant [shall] to
93 have sufficient understanding of English for the interpretation of
94 traffic control signs. In determining the other languages for the
95 administration of such knowledge test, the commissioner shall consult
96 with representatives of organizations that advocate on behalf of or
97 assist immigrants, refugees or other persons who are English language
98 learners and shall be responsive to the linguistic needs of the emerging
99 immigrant and refugee populations in the state.

100 (4) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
101 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of this subsection
102 concerning the requirements for behind-the-wheel, on-the-road
103 instruction, the content of safe driving instruction at drivers' schools,
104 high schools and other secondary schools, and the administration and
105 certification of required testing.

106 (e) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued until (A)
107 the applicant signs and submits to the commissioner, in such manner
108 as the commissioner directs, an application under oath, or made
109 subject to penalties for false statement in accordance with section 53a-
110 157b, and (B) the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant is sixteen
111 years of age or older and is a suitable person to receive the license.

112 (2) Except any applicant described in section 14-36m, an applicant
113 for a new motor vehicle operator's license shall submit with the
114 application a copy of such applicant's birth certificate or other prima
115 facie evidence, as determined by the commissioner, of date of birth and
116 evidence of identity.

117 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not

118 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or
119 whose Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license expired more than
120 two years prior to the application date, the commissioner shall require
121 the applicant to demonstrate personally to the commissioner, a deputy,
122 a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of the commissioner, in such
123 manner as the commissioner directs, that the applicant is a proper
124 person to operate motor vehicles of the class for which such applicant
125 has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the mechanism of the motor
126 vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him or her and has
127 satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the
128 rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant for a class D
129 motor vehicle operator's license [may be administered in such form as
130 the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio, electronic or
131 written testing. Such knowledge test shall be administered in English,
132 Spanish or any language spoken at home by at least one per cent of the
133 state's population, according to statistics prepared by the United States
134 Census Bureau, based on the most recent decennial census. Each such
135 knowledge test] shall include a question concerning highway work
136 zone safety and the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle
137 under section 14-212d. Each such knowledge test shall include not less
138 than one question concerning distracted driving, the use of mobile
139 telephones and electronic devices by motor vehicle operators or the
140 responsibilities of motor vehicle operators under section 14-296aa. If
141 any such applicant has held a license from a state, territory or
142 possession of the United States where a similar examination is
143 required, the commissioner may waive part or all of the examination.
144 If any such applicant is (A) a veteran who applies not later than two
145 years after the date of discharge from the military and who, prior to
146 such discharge, held a military operator's license for motor vehicles of
147 the same class as that for which such applicant has applied, or (B) a
148 member of the armed forces or the National Guard who currently
149 holds a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the same class
150 as that for which such applicant has applied, the commissioner shall
151 waive all of the examination, except in the case of a commercial motor
152 vehicle license, the commissioner shall waive the driving skills test for

153 such applicant and may, in such commissioner's discretion, waive the
154 knowledge test for such application, provided such applicant meets
155 the conditions set forth in 49 CFR 383.77, as amended from time to
156 time. For the purposes of this subsection, "veteran" and "armed forces"
157 have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103. When the
158 commissioner is satisfied as to the ability and competency of any
159 applicant, the commissioner may issue to such applicant a license,
160 either unlimited or containing such limitations as the commissioner
161 deems advisable, and specifying the class of motor vehicles which the
162 licensee is eligible to operate.

163 (4) If any applicant or operator license holder has any health
164 problem which might affect such person's ability to operate a motor
165 vehicle safely, the commissioner may require the applicant or license
166 holder to demonstrate personally or otherwise establish that,
167 notwithstanding such problem, such applicant or license holder is a
168 proper person to operate a motor vehicle, and the commissioner may
169 further require a certificate of such applicant's condition, signed by a
170 medical authority designated by the commissioner, which certificate
171 shall in all cases be treated as confidential by the commissioner. A
172 license, containing such limitation as the commissioner deems
173 advisable, may be issued or renewed in any case, but nothing in this
174 section shall be construed to prevent the commissioner from refusing a
175 license, either limited or unlimited, to any person or suspending a
176 license of a person whom the commissioner determines to be incapable
177 of safely operating a motor vehicle. Consistent with budgetary
178 allotments, each motor vehicle operator's license issued to or renewed
179 by a person who is deaf or hard of hearing shall, upon the request of
180 such person, indicate such impairment. Such person shall submit a
181 certificate stating such impairment, in such form as the commissioner
182 may require and signed by a licensed health care practitioner.

183 (5) The issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license to any
184 applicant who is the holder of a license issued by another state shall be
185 subject to the provisions of [sections 14-111c and] section 14-111k.

186 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2023,
187 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall offer appointments for the
188 on-the-road skills test portion of the examination for a motor vehicle
189 operator's license at drivers' schools, licensed in accordance with the
190 provisions of section 14-69 of the general statutes. The on-the-road
191 skills test shall be administered by a motor vehicle inspector agent or
192 an agent of the commissioner and shall be made available to all
193 students of such schools who are otherwise eligible to take such test.

194 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) On or before February 1, 2024, the
195 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall submit a report, in accordance
196 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
197 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
198 matters relating to transportation, regarding the status of entering into
199 an agreement with Taiwan for the reciprocal recognition of driver
200 training requirements.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-36(d) and (e)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*