

2023 -- H 5765

LC002013

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS'
LICENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, Hull, J. Lombardi, Carson,
Cotter, Spears, and McEntee

Date Introduced: February 21, 2023

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-10 of the General Laws entitled "Operators' and Chauffeurs'
2 Licenses" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-10-20.1. Online driver education program pilot.**

4 (a) Effective October 1, 2023, current approved providers of classroom driver education
5 programs may offer the thirty-three (33) hour driver education program in an online and virtual
6 format. Successful completion of the online program shall fulfill the requirements set forth in §§
7 31-10-19 and 31-10-20.

8 (b) The online and virtual format driver education program shall be evaluated by the online
9 driver education program study commission, whereupon a recommendation shall be made whether
10 to make the pilot program permanent. The commission's findings and recommendations shall be
11 reported to the state board of education no later than December 31, 2024. The online driver
12 education program study commission shall consist of the following five (5) members: one
13 representative of AAA-Northeast; one staff member of the community college of Rhode Island's
14 driver education program; the director of the Rhode Island division of motor vehicles, or designee;
15 one certified driver education teacher appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and
16 the director of the Rhode Island office of highway safety, or designee.

17 (c) This section shall sunset and expire on October 1, 2025.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall sunset on October 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would create a pilot program for the thirty-three (33) hour driver education
2 program to be offered in an online and virtual format, effective October 1, 2023 and would sunset
3 on October 1, 2025. Additionally, this act would create the online driver education program study
4 commission to recommend by December 31, 2024 whether the pilot program should be made
5 permanent.

6 This act would take effect upon passage and would sunset on October 1, 2025.

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