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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Ruggerio, Goodwin, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 11, 2015

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-10-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators'
2 and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-10-6. Graduated licensing for person under the age of eighteen (18).** -- (a)

4 Purpose. - To ensure that license holders have sufficient training and experience and to promote
5 safe, responsible driving, persons under the age of eighteen (18) shall be granted driving
6 privileges on a limited basis as follows:

7 (1) Level 1 -- Limited instruction permit.

8 (2) Level 2 -- Limited provisional license.

9 (3) Level 3 -- Full operator's license.

10 (b) Requirements and privileges. - A permit or license issued pursuant to this section
11 must have a color background or border that indicates the level of driving privileges granted by
12 the permit or license.

13 (1) Limited instruction permit. - Any person who is at least sixteen (16) years of age but
14 less than eighteen (18) years of age may apply to the division of motor vehicles for a limited
15 instruction permit. The division of motor vehicles may, after the applicant has successfully
16 completed a course of driver training prescribed in § 31-10-19 and passed a standardized written
17 examination approved by the administrator of the division of motor vehicles or otherwise
18 complied with the requirements of § 31-10-21, issue to the applicant a limited instruction permit

1 which shall entitle the applicant to drive a motor vehicle only under the following conditions:

2 (i) The permit holder must be in possession of the permit;

3 (ii) A supervising driver must be seated beside the permit holder in ~~he~~ the front seat of
4 the vehicle when it is in motion;

5 (iii) No person other than the supervising driver can be in the front seat;

6 (iv) Every person occupying the vehicle being driven by the permit holder must have a
7 safety belt properly fastened about his or her body, or be restrained by a child passenger restraint
8 system as provided in § 31-22-22 when the vehicle is in motion;

9 (v) The permittee shall wear a safety belt at all times unless the permittee provides the
10 division of motor vehicles with a statement from a physician indicating that for medical reasons
11 the permittee cannot wear a safety belt. A limited instruction permit shall be valid for a period of
12 one year, and may be extended for a reasonable period of time if the holder of the permit provides
13 the division of motor vehicles with evidence of a hardship. Any person who is at least sixteen
14 (16) years of age and is enrolled in a commercial drivers' school or in a regularly recognized
15 secondary school or college driver training program which is approved by the division of motor
16 vehicles shall not be required to have a limited instruction permit while operating a dual-control
17 training vehicle regularly used by that school in its driver training program and while a regular
18 instructor in that school or program is occupying the seat beside that person.

19 (2) Limited provisional license. - A person may obtain a limited provisional license if the
20 person meets all of the following requirements:

21 (i) (A) Has held a limited instruction permit issued by the division of motor vehicles for
22 at least six (6) months;

23 (B) Has not been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation or seat belt infraction
24 during the preceding six (6) months;

25 (C) Passes a road test administered by the division of motor vehicles and shall also meet
26 the requirements of subsection (iii) herein.

27 (ii) A limited provisional license authorizes the license holder to drive a motor vehicle
28 only under the following conditions:

29 (A) The license holder must be in possession of the license.

30 (B) The license holder may drive without supervision in any of the following
31 circumstances:

32 (I) From 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.;

33 (II) When driving to or from work;

34 (III) When driving to or from an activity of a volunteer fire department, volunteer rescue

1 squad or volunteer emergency medical service, if the driver is a member of one of these
2 organizations.

3 (C) The license holder may drive with supervision at any time. When the license holder
4 is driving with supervision, the supervising driver must be seated beside the license holder in the
5 front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion.

6 (D) Every person occupying the vehicle being driven by the license holder must have a
7 safety belt properly fastened about his or her body, or be restrained by a child safety passenger
8 restraint system as provided in § 31-22-22 when the vehicle is in motion.

9 (iii) In addition to meeting the requirements of paragraph (i) of this subdivision, a person
10 under the age of eighteen (18) years seeking to obtain a provisional license shall present with his
11 or her application a statement signed by the person's parent or guardian stating that the applicant
12 has obtained a minimum of fifty (50) hours of experience with ten (10) of those at night as a
13 driver while driving with a supervising driver. These fifty (50) hours may include driving lessons
14 with a commercial driving school or any other supervised driving.

15 (iv) During the first twelve (12) months of a limited provisional license no more than one
16 passenger younger than twenty-one (21) years of age is allowed in the vehicle. Immediate
17 family/household members are excepted from this subsection.

18 (3) Full operator's license. - (i) A person who is at least seventeen (17) years old but less
19 than eighteen (18) years old may apply for and obtain a full operator's license if the person meets
20 all of the following requirements:

21 ⊕ (A) Has held a limited provisional license issued by the division of motor vehicles for
22 at least twelve (12) months;

23 (B) Has not been convicted of a motor vehicle moving violation or seat belt infraction
24 during the preceding six (6) months.

25 (ii) A person who meets the requirements of this section may obtain a full operator's
26 license by mail. The restrictions on Level 1 and Level 2 drivers concerning time of driving,
27 supervision and passenger limitations do not apply to a full operator's license.

28 (C) Notwithstanding any provision of the general or public laws to the contrary, no
29 person shall be eligible for a Rhode Island driver's license, unless such person shall have
30 completed a minimum of six (6) hours of over-the-road driver's training from a licensed driver's
31 training school in this state. This provision shall not apply to persons who seek to obtain a Rhode
32 Island driver's license and who have a current driver's license from another state.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would require persons seeking a Rhode Island driver's license to complete a
2 minimum of six (6) hours of over-the-road driver's training from a licensed driver's training
3 school within this state.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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