2017 -- H 5055

S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N   A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DRIVER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Section 31-10-20 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators'

2   and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3   **31-10-20. Driver education course requirement before licensing.**

4   (a) No limited instruction permit or license shall be issued to any person not more than

5   eighteen (18) years of age unless that person shall have successfully completed a course of

6   instruction as provided in § 31-10-19, or a similar course of instruction recognized by the board

7   of governors for higher education as equivalent to it. However, any person who is over eighteen

8   (18) years of age and has been a holder of a motor vehicle operator's license issued to that person

9   by any other state, territory, or possession of the United States, or any other sovereignty for a

10   period of one year immediately prior to his or her application for a license under this chapter shall

11   not be required to comply with the provisions of this section.

12   (b) Commencing on July 1, 2004, no limited instruction permit or license shall be issued

13   to any person not more than eighteen (18) years of age unless that person shall have successfully

14   completed a course of instruction as provided in § 31-10-19, or a similar course of instruction in

15   another state recognized by the board of governors for higher education as equivalent to it. In

16   determining whether a course is equivalent, the board of governors for higher education shall at a

17   minimum require: (1) that the course consist of at least thirty-three (33) instructional hours which

18   substantially conform with the current curriculum utilized by the instructor(s) at the Community

1 College of Rhode Island, including a minimum of three (3) hours of instruction focusing upon

2 specific Rhode Island traffic laws, the specific requirements of the Rhode Island graduated

3 licensing statute in § 31-10-6 and eight (8) hours specifically for instruction on the effects of

4 alcohol and drugs on a driver. All driver's education programs shall include information

5 concerning the revised uniform Anatomical Gift Act, chapter 18.6 18.6.1 of title 23, and

6 information on donor cards pursuant to the applicable provisions of chapter 18.6 18.6.1 of title

7 23; (2) that the instructor holds a valid teacher's certificate; (3) that the instructor satisfactorily

8 completes at least a three (3) credit course in traffic safety education at an accredited institution of

9 higher education; and (4) that the program does not offer outside the classroom road test

10 instruction or driving lessons to Rhode Island students. However, any person who is over

11 eighteen (18) years of age and has been a holder of a motor vehicle operator's license issued to

12 that person by any other state, territory, or possession of the United States, or any other

13 sovereignty for a period of one year immediately prior to his or her application for a license under

14 this chapter shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section.

15   (c) The driver's education course and driver's license examination shall include material

16 pertaining to a driver's responsibilities when stopped by a law enforcement officer as explained

17 during the driver education course.

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

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N   A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DRIVER EDUCATION
REQUIREMENTS

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1   This act would require driver's instruction courses and tests to include instruction and

2   information on a driver's responsible conduct during a traffic stop.

3   This act would take effect upon passage.

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