

2018 -- H 7194

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DRIVER EDUCATION
REQUIREMENTS

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Diaz, Morin, Shanley, and McLaughlin

Date Introduced: January 18, 2018

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

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 rights and responsibilities when stopped by a law enforcement officer as](#)
17 [explained during the driver education course, including, but not limited to, rights provided to](#)
18 [drivers pursuant to chapter 21. 2 of title 31 the "comprehensive community-police relationship act](#)
19 [of 2015".](#)

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - DRIVER EDUCATION
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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, including, but not limited to, the rights provided to
3 driver's pursuant to the "comprehensive community-police relationship act of 2015" during a
4 traffic stop.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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