

2017 -- H 5768

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LC001547
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives Price, Filippi, Chippendale, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: March 01, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-10-19 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-10 entitled "Operators'
2 and Chauffeurs' Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-10-19. Driver education -- Traffic safety education.**

4 (a) The Community College of Rhode Island shall provide [in all public high schools in](#)
5 [the state, subject to the approval of the district superintendent, and in accordance with the policies](#)
6 [of the school district](#) thirty-three (33) hours of classroom instruction for applicants or prospective
7 applicants, not more than twenty-one (21) years of age for a limited instruction permit or license.
8 The instruction shall include eight (8) hours, specifically for instruction on the effects of alcohol
9 and drugs on a driver, and the instruction shall be given by a person eligible for a teacher's
10 certificate issued under the authority of the state board of regents and which course of instruction
11 shall be approved by the board of governors for higher education. In case of emergency, the
12 President of the Community College of Rhode Island may declare, when no certified instructor is
13 available to teach, an individual eligible to teach at the Community College of Rhode Island who
14 has taken the required course of instruction in driver education, may provide driver education
15 instruction. All driver education programs shall include information concerning the Anatomical
16 Gift Act, chapter 18.6 of title 23, and information on donor cards pursuant to the applicable
17 provisions of chapter 18.6 of title 23. The board of governors for higher education shall ensure
18 that each person properly certified and approved to instruct driver education courses shall be

1 given an equal opportunity for employment as an instructor within the driver education program.
2 No person teaching driver education under this section shall own, be employed by, or be
3 associated with a commercial driving school.

4 (b) Driver education instruction shall be available to any eligible resident applicant not
5 less than fifteen (15) years and ten (10) months of age.

6 (c) That the state shall also provide a separate program of instruction, as previously set
7 forth in this section, for special needs students whose individual education plan (IEP) indicates a
8 need for a separate program of instruction.

9 (d) The Community College of Rhode Island shall provide a driver training program for
10 physically handicapped drivers. The program shall instruct the physically handicapped driver in
11 the operation of adapted vehicles for the handicapped. The adapted vehicles are to be provided by
12 the handicapped individual. A physically handicapped person must be certified by a licensed
13 physician that he or she is physically handicapped and possesses sufficient potential to become a
14 competent motor vehicle operator. The Community College of Rhode Island shall establish a
15 tuition fee sufficient to cover the cost of the program.

16 (e) A tuition or enrollment fee shall be required to be paid by an eligible applicant in
17 accordance with rules and regulations of the board of governors for higher education; provided,
18 that personal checks shall be an acceptable method of payment of the tuition or enrollment fee.
19 The tuition or enrollment fee shall be deposited in a restricted receipt account established to pay
20 any and all costs associated with the driver education program at the Community College of
21 Rhode Island and administered by the Community College of Rhode Island.

22 (f) The board of governors for higher education is authorized to establish administrative
23 regulations to further implement this section.

24 (g) The Community College of Rhode Island shall establish tuition fees sufficient to
25 cover the cost of the program and the administration of the driver education program. All
26 positions established to implement the driver education program and funded in full by driver
27 education program fees shall be exempt from the full-time equivalency cap established in Article
28 1 of the Appropriations Act, provided, however, that the board of governors shall report by June
29 1, 2004, the actual number of filled positions funded exclusively by driver education fees to the
30 chairperson of the house finance committee, the chairperson of the senate finance committee and
31 the state budget officer.

32 (h) The board of governors for higher education shall provide for an optional and
33 voluntary course of instruction for the applicant's parent, guardian, or designee where applicable,
34 on the content of the driver education curriculum and the requirements for the graduated licensing

1 for persons under the age of eighteen (18) as contained in § 31-10-6. The community college of
2 Rhode Island shall be responsible to develop the course of instruction and content for the parent
3 instruction, or may approve a similar course of instruction, such as AAA's course, as equivalent
4 to it, and shall promulgate regulations and establish the appropriate method of providing the
5 instruction.

6 (i) Dangers of distracted driving, including, but not limited to, use of cell phones would
7 be included in this section curriculum and included in all testing as part of the state's driver's
8 license examination.

9 (ii) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school district from establishing its own
10 program of classroom instruction in a public high school, so long as all of the requirements of this
11 section are met.

12 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 that the Community College of Rhode Island provide traffic safety
- 2 education at each public high school in the state.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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