
HOUSE BILL 1585

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representative Graham

1 AN ACT Relating to improving driver's education related to
2 traffic stops in order to avoid inadvertent hostile confrontations;
3 amending RCW 28A.220.035 and 46.82.420, adding a new section to
4 chapter 46.82 RCW; creating new sections; and providing expiration
5 dates.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds there is a need for
8 drivers to be provided better education to avoid inadvertently
9 causing conflicts with law enforcement when stopped for a traffic
10 infraction. Driver education training curriculum and courses should
11 inform new drivers of the best practices to use when detained by law
12 enforcement while driving. The education is intended to provide
13 comprehensive training to prevent hostile driver and law enforcement
14 interactions.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.220.035 and 2017 c 197 s 4 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
18 department of licensing shall jointly develop and maintain a required
19 curriculum for school districts and approved private schools
20 operating a traffic safety education program. (~~The jointly developed~~

1 ~~curriculum must be prepared by August 1, 2018.~~) The curriculum and
2 instructional materials must comply with the course content
3 requirements of RCW 46.82.420(2) ~~((and))~~ 46.82.430, and section 4
4 of this act. In developing the curriculum, the office of the
5 superintendent of public instruction and the department of licensing
6 shall consult with one or more of Central Washington University's
7 traffic safety education instructors or program content developers.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.82.420 and 2017 c 197 s 12 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The department and the office of the superintendent of public
11 instruction shall jointly develop and maintain a required curriculum
12 as specified in RCW 28A.220.035. The department shall furnish to each
13 qualifying applicant for an instructor's license or a driver training
14 school license a copy of such curriculum.

15 (2) In addition to information on the safe, lawful, and
16 responsible operation of motor vehicles on the state's highways, the
17 required curriculum shall include information on:

18 (a) Intermediate driver's license issuance, passenger and driving
19 restrictions and sanctions for violating the restrictions, and the
20 effect of traffic violations and collisions on the driving
21 privileges;

22 (b) The effects of alcohol and drug use on motor vehicle
23 operators, including information on drug and alcohol related traffic
24 injury and mortality rates in the state of Washington and the current
25 penalties for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol;

26 (c) Motorcycle awareness, approved by the director, to ensure new
27 operators of motor vehicles have been instructed in the importance of
28 safely sharing the road with motorcyclists;

29 (d) Bicycle safety, to ensure that operators of motor vehicles
30 have been instructed in the importance of safely sharing the road
31 with bicyclists; ~~((and))~~

32 (e) Pedestrian safety, to ensure that operators of motor vehicles
33 have been instructed in the importance of safely sharing the road
34 with pedestrians; and

35 (f) Driver-law enforcement interactive training, to prevent
36 hostile and life-threatening interactions related to traffic
37 enforcement actions in accordance with section 4 of this act.

38 (3) Should the director be presented with acceptable proof that
39 any licensed instructor or driver training school is not showing

1 proper diligence in teaching the required curriculum, the instructor
2 or school shall be required to appear before the director and show
3 cause why the license of the instructor or school should not be
4 revoked for such negligence. If the director does not accept such
5 reasons as may be offered, the director may revoke the license of the
6 instructor or school, or both.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.82
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The Washington state patrol, the department of licensing, and
10 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall develop
11 and maintain the required curriculum in this section.

12 (2) The curriculum in this section must include driver-law
13 enforcement interactive training that provides best practices for
14 when a driver is detained by law enforcement officers in many common
15 situations related to driving.

16 (a) The curriculum must explain the rights and responsibilities
17 drivers have when they are detained by law enforcement for traffic
18 infractions or driving under the influence of liquor, cannabis, or
19 drugs.

20 (b) The curriculum must address differences in expectations of
21 law enforcement officers caused by: The time of day or night and
22 available light; weather conditions; the location of the interaction
23 (interstate, urban, rural); and any common circumstances that could
24 cause law enforcement officers to draw weapons or use force.

25 (c) Training should include discussion with drivers of scenarios
26 that have resulted in use of force or officers to draw their weapons
27 and ways to avoid similar situations.

28 (d) For training courses where driving students are operating a
29 vehicle or using driving simulations, there should be at least one
30 activity where the student undergoes a simulation of being detained
31 by law enforcement for a violation of the rules of the road.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) No later than December 1, 2022, the
33 Washington state patrol must provide on its website at least one
34 public information video and written steps providing the best actions
35 drivers can take when they are detained for a traffic infraction. The
36 intent of these materials is to prevent drivers inadvertently taking
37 actions that patrol officers may view as threatening and provide
38 drivers with a comprehensive understanding of the process that occurs

1 during a traffic stop. These materials are to help prevent hostile
2 driver-law enforcement interactions.

3 (2) The Washington state patrol is directed to notify county
4 sheriffs once the materials in subsection (1) of this section are
5 posted on its website, and is encouraged to share the information
6 more broadly with law enforcement agencies, associations, high
7 schools, and driver education organizations.

8 (3) This section expires December 31, 2022.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Once the Washington state patrol posts
10 its materials in section 5 of this act, county sheriffs are
11 encouraged to provide a link to those materials on their office
12 website, or provide public information in video or written forms
13 about the best actions drivers can take when they are detained for a
14 traffic infraction. The intent of these materials is to prevent
15 drivers inadvertently taking actions that law enforcement officers
16 may view as threatening and provide drivers with a comprehensive
17 understanding of the process that occurs during a traffic stop. These
18 materials are to help prevent hostile driver-law enforcement
19 interactions.

20 (2) This section expires December 31, 2022.

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