

1 S.170

2 Introduced by Senator Sears

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; financial responsibility; operator's license; driver
6 education and training

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to:

8 (1) require operators of motor vehicles registered in Vermont to carry
9 proof of insurance or of self-insurance;

10 (2) limit the period within which a person may submit proof of licensure
11 after being cited for failure to carry a license certificate;

12 (3) require persons under 21 years of age to complete a driver education
13 and training course in order to be eligible for an operator's license.

14 An act relating to proof of financial responsibility and of driver licensure,
15 and relating to driver education and training

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 800 is amended to read:

18 § 800. MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

19 (a) No owner of a motor vehicle required to be registered, or operator
20 required to be licensed or issued a learner's permit, shall operate or permit the

1 operation of the vehicle upon the highways of the State without having in
2 effect an automobile liability policy or bond in the amounts of at least
3 \$25,000.00 for one person and \$50,000.00 for two or more persons killed or
4 injured and \$10,000.00 for damages to property in any one accident. In lieu
5 thereof, evidence of self-insurance in the amount of \$115,000.00 must be filed
6 with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and shall be maintained and
7 evidenced in a form prescribed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may
8 require that evidence of financial responsibility be produced before motor
9 vehicle inspections are performed pursuant to the requirements of section 1222
10 of this title.

11 (b) Every operator of a vehicle required to be registered in this State shall
12 have proof of insurance of the vehicle, or of self-insurance, in the vehicle at all
13 times when operating on the highways of this State. However, a person cited
14 for violating this subsection shall not be convicted if he or she produces to the
15 enforcement officer within five days of the traffic stop proof of insurance, or of
16 self-insurance, that was in effect at the time of the traffic stop.

17 (c)(1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be assessed
18 a civil penalty not more than \$500.00, and such violation shall be a traffic
19 violation within the meaning of chapter 24 of this title.

1 (2) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section commits a
2 traffic violation and shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than
3 \$100.00.

4 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 611 is amended to read:

5 § 611. POSSESSION OF LICENSE CERTIFICATE

6 Every licensee shall have his or her operator's license certificate in his or
7 her immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle.

8 However, ~~no a person charged cited~~ with violating this section or section 610
9 of this title shall not be convicted if he or she produces ~~in court or~~ to the
10 enforcement officer within five days of the traffic stop an operator's license
11 certificate theretofore issued to him or her ~~which,~~ that at the time of his or her
12 citation, was valid or had expired within the prior 14 days.

13 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 603 is amended to read:

14 § 603. APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

15 (a)(1) The Commissioner or his or her authorized agent may license
16 operators and junior operators when an application, on a form prescribed by
17 the Commissioner, signed and sworn to by the applicant for the license, is filed
18 with him or her, accompanied by the required license fee and any valid license
19 from another state or Canadian jurisdiction is surrendered.

20 (2) The Commissioner may, however, in his or her discretion, refuse to
21 issue a license to any person whenever he or she is satisfied from information

1 given him or her by credible persons, and upon investigation, that the person is
2 mentally or physically unfit, or because of his or her habits, or record as to
3 accidents or convictions, is unsafe to be trusted with the operation of motor
4 vehicles. A person refused a license, under the provisions of this subsection or
5 section 605 of this title, shall be entitled to hearing as provided in sections
6 105–107 of this title.

7 (3) Any new or renewal application form shall include a space for the
8 applicant to request that a “veteran” designation be placed on his or her license
9 certificate. An applicant who requests the designation shall provide a
10 Department of Defense Form 214, or other proof of veteran status specified by
11 the Commissioner.

12 (4) Prior to the issuance of a license, an examination and road test shall
13 be required if so specified in section 632 of this title. In addition, a person
14 under 21 years of age shall not be issued an operator’s license unless he or she
15 has completed a driver education and training course approved by the
16 Commissioner.

17 * * *

18 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.