
HOUSE BILL 2417

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Moeller, and Wylie

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying certain driver's license
2 requirements; amending RCW 46.20.075 and 46.20.130; creating a new
3 section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
6 better driver act.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.075 and 2011 c 60 s 44 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) An intermediate license authorizes the holder to drive a
10 motor vehicle under the conditions specified in this section. An
11 applicant for an intermediate license must be at least sixteen years
12 of age and:

13 (a) Have possessed a valid instruction permit for a period of not
14 less than six months;

15 (b) Have passed a driver licensing examination administered by
16 the department following verification by the examination
17 administrator that an intermediate license logbook was completed that
18 contains information establishing that the applicant has met the
19 following minimum driving requirements while supervised by a person

1 at least twenty-one years of age who has had a valid driver's license
2 for at least three years:

3 (i) Fifty hours of driving; and

4 (ii) Ten hours of driving at night (part of the fifty-hour total
5 driving time requirement);

6 (c) Have passed a course of driver's education in accordance with
7 the standards established in RCW 46.20.100;

8 (d) Present certification by his or her parent, guardian, or
9 employer to the department stating (i) that the applicant has had at
10 least fifty hours of driving experience, ten of which were at night,
11 during which the driver was supervised by a person at least twenty-
12 one years of age who has had a valid driver's license for at least
13 three years, and (ii) that the applicant has not been issued a notice
14 of traffic infraction or cited for a traffic violation that is
15 pending at the time of the application for the intermediate license;

16 (e) Not have been convicted of or found to have committed a
17 traffic violation within the last six months before the application
18 for the intermediate license; and

19 (f) Not have been adjudicated for an offense involving the use of
20 alcohol or drugs during the period the applicant held an instruction
21 permit.

22 (2) For the first six months after the issuance of an
23 intermediate license or until the holder reaches eighteen years of
24 age, whichever occurs first, the holder of the license may not
25 operate a motor vehicle that is carrying any passengers under the age
26 of twenty who are not members of the holder's immediate family as
27 defined in RCW 42.17A.005. For the remaining period of the
28 intermediate license, the holder may not operate a motor vehicle that
29 is carrying more than three passengers who are under the age of
30 twenty who are not members of the holder's immediate family.

31 (3) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a motor
32 vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. except when the holder
33 is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or a licensed driver who is at
34 least twenty-five years of age.

35 (4) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a
36 moving motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device
37 unless the holder is using the device to report illegal activity,
38 summon medical or other emergency help, or prevent injury to a person
39 or property.

1 (5) It is a traffic infraction for the holder of an intermediate
2 license to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the restrictions
3 imposed under this section.

4 (6) Except for a violation of subsection (4) of this section,
5 enforcement of this section by law enforcement officers may be
6 accomplished only as a secondary action when a driver of a motor
7 vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation of this title or
8 an equivalent local ordinance or some other offense.

9 (7) An intermediate licensee may drive at any hour without
10 restrictions on the number of passengers in the vehicle if necessary
11 for agricultural purposes.

12 (8) An intermediate licensee may drive at any hour without
13 restrictions on the number of passengers in the vehicle if, for the
14 twelve-month period following the issuance of the intermediate
15 license, he or she:

16 (a) Has not been involved in an accident involving only one motor
17 vehicle;

18 (b) Has not been involved in an accident where he or she was
19 cited in connection with the accident or was found to have caused the
20 accident;

21 (c) Has not been involved in an accident where no one was cited
22 or was found to have caused the accident; and

23 (d) Has not been convicted of or found to have committed a
24 traffic offense described in chapter 46.61 RCW or violated
25 restrictions placed on an intermediate licensee under this section.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.130 and 2006 c 190 s 1 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) The director shall prescribe the content of the driver
29 licensing examination and the manner of conducting the examination,
30 which shall include but is not limited to:

31 (a) A test of the applicant's eyesight and ability to see,
32 understand, and follow highway signs regulating, warning, and
33 directing traffic;

34 (b) A test of the applicant's knowledge of traffic laws and
35 ability to understand and follow the directives of lawful authority,
36 orally or graphically, that regulate, warn, and direct traffic in
37 accordance with the traffic laws of this state;

38 (c) An actual demonstration of the applicant's ability to operate
39 a motor vehicle without jeopardizing the safety of persons or

1 property, including a demonstration by the applicant of driving
2 skills commonly required in the operation of a motor vehicle that
3 must be developed to take no less than an estimated thirty minutes to
4 administer. If the applicant is deaf or hearing impaired, the
5 applicant may be accompanied by an interpreter to assist the
6 applicant during the demonstration. The interpreter will be of the
7 applicant's choosing from a list provided by the department of
8 licensing; and

9 (d) Such further examination as the director deems necessary:

10 (i) To determine whether any facts exist that would bar the
11 issuance of a vehicle operator's license under chapters 46.20, 46.21,
12 and 46.29 RCW; and

13 (ii) To determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor
14 vehicle safely on the highways.

15 (2) If the applicant desires to drive a motorcycle or a motor-
16 driven cycle, he or she must qualify for a motorcycle endorsement
17 under RCW 46.20.500 through 46.20.515.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect January 1, 2017.

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