

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 356

BY SENATORS GRADY, STOLLINGS, KARNES, AND

ROBERTS

[Introduced February 18, 2021; referred
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-6-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to allowing the written part of the operator’s license examination to be given in school
 3 driver’s education courses.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. DRIVER EDUCATION.

§18-6-3. State board to establish minimum course standards; students with mental or physical defects; minimum standards specified.

1 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish minimum standards for all driver
 2 education courses offered and made available to persons within the state, regardless of whether
 3 the courses are offered by public, private, parochial, denominational or commercial schools, but
 4 no person shall be permitted to enroll in any driver education course who has a known mental or
 5 physical defect that would prevent the person from qualifying for an operator’s license, unless the
 6 mental or physical defect is controlled or corrected so the person could so qualify.

7 (b) The minimum standards shall provide at least that:

8 (1) All driver education courses offered within the state are taught by instructors certified
 9 by the state board as qualified for these purposes; and

10 (2) Each person enrolled in a driver education course shall receive practice driving and
 11 observation in a dual control automobile and instruction in at least the following:

12 (A) Basic and advanced driving techniques, including techniques for handling
 13 emergencies;

14 (B) Traffic regulations and laws of the road as provided in chapter 17C of this code and
 15 other applicable state and local laws and ordinances;

16 (C) Critical mechanical parts of vehicles requiring preventive maintenance for safety;

17 (D) The vehicle, highway and community features that aid the driver in avoiding crashes;
 18 protect him or her and his or her passengers in crashes; and maximize the salvage of the injured;

19 (E) Signs, signals, highway markings and highway design features which require

- 20 understanding for safe operation of motor vehicles;
- 21 (F) Differences in characteristics of urban and rural driving, including safe use of modern
- 22 expressways;
- 23 (G) Pedestrian safety; ~~and~~
- 24 (H) Motorcycle safety awareness in a program which shall include, but not be limited to,
- 25 ensuring that the driver has knowledge and awareness of motorcycles sharing the roads of this
- 26 state for the safety of motorcyclists; and
- 27 (I) Effective July 1, 2021, school driver education courses may give the written part of the
- 28 operator's license examination.
- 29 (c) In addition, in driver education courses, participating students shall be encouraged to
- 30 acquire first aid skills.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow the written part of the operator's license examination to be given in school driver education courses.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.