

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 356

BY SENATORS GRADY, STOLLINGS, KARNES, AND

ROBERTS

[Passed March 26, 2021; in effect 90 days from
passage (June 24, 2021)]

1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §17B-2-7 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 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION, AND RENEWAL.

§17B-2-7. Examination of applicants.

1 (a) Upon the presentment of the applicant's certified copy of the birth certificate issued by
2 a state or other governmental entity responsible for vital records or a valid and unexpired passport
3 issued by the United States government, as evidence that the applicant is of lawful age and
4 verifiable identity, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall examine every applicant for a license to
5 operate a motor vehicle in this state, except as otherwise provided in this section. The examination
6 shall include a test of the applicant's eyesight, the applicant's ability to read and understand
7 highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic, the applicant's knowledge of the traffic
8 laws of this state, and the applicant's knowledge of the effects of alcohol upon persons and the
9 dangers of driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. The examination shall also
10 include an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the
11 operation of a motor vehicle, and any further physical and mental examination as the Division of
12 Motor Vehicles considers necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor
13 vehicle safely upon the highways.

14 (b) The commissioner shall propose legislative rules for promulgation pursuant to §29A-
15 3-1 *et seq.* of this code concerning the examination of applicants for licenses and the qualifications
16 required of applicants, and the examination of applicants by the division shall be in accordance
17 with the rules. The rules shall provide for the viewing of educational material or films on the
18 medical, biological, and psychological effects of alcohol upon persons, the dangers of driving a
19 motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, and the criminal penalties and administrative
20 sanctions for alcohol and drug related motor vehicle violations. By September 1, 2021, the

21 commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval and emergency rules pursuant to §29A-
22 3-1 *et seq.* of this code allowing driver education instructors providing instruction pursuant to §18-
23 6-1 *et seq.* of this code, to administer a knowledge test developed by the division. Notwithstanding
24 §18-8-11 of this code, any person successfully completing a test administered by a driver's
25 education instructor pursuant to the rule is exempt from the proof of school enrollment
26 requirements in that code section.

27 (c) After successful completion of the examination required by this section, §17B-2-3 or
28 §17B-2-7b of this code, and prior to the issuance of a license pursuant to §17B-2-8 of this code,
29 every applicant for a driver's license, graduated driver's license, or motorcycle-only license shall
30 attend a mandatory education class on the dangers and social consequences of driving a motor
31 vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall use
32 as lecturers at those classes persons who can relate first-hand experiences as victims or family
33 members of victims of alcohol-related accidents or drivers who have been involved in alcohol-
34 related accidents which caused serious bodily injury or death.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Chairman, Senate Committee

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Chairman, House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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Clerk of the Senate

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

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Day of, 2021.

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Governor