
WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 18
ARTICLE 6

WV Legislature

§18-6-1. Purpose and objectives of article.

The purpose of this article is to ensure that every secondary school pupil has the opportunity, at or about the time he or she reaches licensing age, to enroll in a course of driver education designed to train him or her to drive skillfully and safely under all traffic and roadway conditions and circumstances.

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§18-6-2. Where provided; permit or certificate for persons who are not professional educators to teach course.

(a) There shall be offered in all public secondary schools within the state, without charge to students, an approved, comprehensive course in driver education. The course may be offered in summer school in addition to the regular instructional term.(b) In those counties where sufficient public secondary school driver education courses are not available to meet all requests for the course, county boards of education shall, as quickly as possible, make sufficient courses available to fill those requests.

(c) Under the authority and subject to the conditions provided in section two-a, article three, chapter eighteen-a of this code, the State Superintendent may issue a permit or other certificate to persons who do not qualify for the professional certificate for the purpose of providing instruction in driver education subject to the following:

(1) The applicant for the permit or certificate is subject to the criminal history check of applicants for licensure provided in section ten, article three, chapter eighteen-a of this code;

(2) The permit or certificate may not be given permanent status, but may be renewed in accordance with rules adopted by the State Department of Education;

(3) The duties of a person who has a valid permit or certificate under this subsection may include the supervision of students;

(4) The person, when providing instruction in the public schools, may only be employed under a contract with the respective county board of education that specifies the duties to be performed, a rate of pay that is equivalent to the rate of pay for professional educators in the district who accept similar duties as extra duty assignments and provides for liability insurance associated with the activity;

(5) The person may not be considered an employee of the board for salary and benefit purposes other than as specified in the contract;

(6) The person completes an orientation program designed and approved in accordance with State Department of Education rules; and

(7) The position is posted annually and a professional educator fully certified for the position has not applied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Traffic regulations and laws of the road as provided in chapter seventeen-c of this code and other applicable state and local laws and ordinances;

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

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

(E) Signs, signals, highway markings and highway design features which require understanding for safe operation of motor vehicles;

(F) Differences in characteristics of urban and rural driving, including safe use of modern expressways;

(G) Pedestrian safety; and

(H) Motorcycle safety awareness in a program which shall include, but not be limited to, ensuring that the driver has knowledge and awareness of motorcycles sharing the roads of this state for the safety of motorcyclists.

(c) In addition, in driver education courses, participating students shall be encouraged to acquire first aid skills.

§18-6-4. Rules.

In accordance with article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, the state board shall, with the advice of the State Superintendent and the Superintendent of the State Police, adopt rules governing the establishment, conduct and scope of driver education for use in the public, private and parochial secondary schools located within this state, subject to the requirements and exceptions set forth in this article.

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§18-6-5. Establishment and maintenance of driver education course; who may enroll; exemption from learner's permit requirement; nonpermit student drivers.

The State Superintendent shall promote and direct the establishment and maintenance of courses of instruction in driver education in secondary schools in accordance with the provisions of this article and the rules that the state board adopts pursuant to section four of this article. Directors, trustees or other persons having control or authority over private or parochial secondary schools, who establish and maintain the courses in the schools under their control or supervision, shall comply with the rules that the state board adopts pursuant to section four of this article.

In the case of a pupil who will not reach the age of fifteen years before completion of the driver education course in which enrolled, instruction shall be limited to the classroom. Pupils who are fifteen years of age and older shall receive instruction and practical training in the operation of motor vehicles on the public streets and highways.

Notwithstanding section three-a, article two, chapter seventeen-b of this code, any student who is at least fifteen years of age and is enrolled in a driver education course in accordance with the provisions of this article and the rules that the state board adopts pursuant to section four of this article, may operate a motor vehicle on the roadways of West Virginia while accompanied by a certified driver education teacher or instructor permitted by the state superintendent to provide driver education instruction.

§18-6-6. Expenditure of school funds for driver education courses; appropriations.

County boards of education, subject to the rules and regulations of the state board, may expend school funds to maintain and repair vehicles used for instructional purposes, to purchase fuel, lubricants, parts and accessories therefor, to pay the compensation of teachers or instructors and to procure automobile insurance, where the expenditures are for the purpose of establishing or maintaining driver education courses in public secondary schools pursuant to this article. These expenditures, including compensation of teachers or instructors, may be made over a period of twelve months.

Each county board of education shall receive from funds specially appropriated for the driver education courses provided in public secondary schools a sum which shall be proportionate to the total amount available for distribution for that purpose to all county boards in the state in the ratio which the number of pupils who are enrolled in driver education courses in public secondary schools in the county bears to the total number of pupils who are enrolled in driver education courses in all public secondary schools within the state, but the payment shall not exceed the sum of \$35 for each such pupil per school year.

§18-6-7. Automobile liability insurance covering vehicles used in driver education.

County boards of education shall procure or require automobile liability insurance in the amount the state board shall prescribe covering motor vehicles owned or operated for driver education courses. The board having control of the financial and business affairs of any other state educational institution which offers driver education courses shall procure or require automobile liability insurance in like amount covering motor vehicles owned or operated for any driver education course. The insurance shall be against any liability arising out of the use of vehicles in connection with any driver education course.

§18-6-8. Driver education course to be made available to all secondary school pupils prior to their graduation; exemption; application by pupil for unrestricted operator's license.

Before any pupil graduates from a secondary school, he or she shall first be provided an opportunity and encouraged to successfully complete a driver education course approved by the state board in a public, private or parochial secondary school within the state. If a pupil has successfully completed a similar course in a secondary school of another state or in a commercial driving school or class and the course is accepted by the state board as adequately meeting and complying with the course standards established by the state board, then the aforementioned requirement shall be deemed fulfilled regarding that pupil.

Any secondary school pupil sixteen years of age or older, but under eighteen years of age, who has successfully completed a driver education course approved by the state board in a public, private, parochial secondary school within the state or a similar course in a secondary school of another state or in a commercial driving school or class and accepted by the state board as adequately meeting and complying with the course standards established by the state board, shall be exempted from submitting a sworn affidavit certified by the parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult over the age of twenty-one that the applicant has successfully completed the minimum number of hours of behind-the-wheel training as provided in section three-a, article two, chapter seventeen-b of the code.

§18-6-9.

Repealed.

Acts, 2014 Reg. Sess., Ch. 52.

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§18-6-10.

Repealed.

Acts, 2014 Reg. Sess., Ch. 52.

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