

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 100

BY SENATOR GARY SMITH

DRIVER EDUCATION. Includes trailer safety education in driver's education courses and materials. (8/1/16)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:402.1(A)(1)(a) and (2)(b), 407(A)(2)(a), and 408(A)(1),
3 relative to driver education; to provide for education and knowledge of trailer safety;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 32:402.1(A)(1)(a) and (2)(b), 407(A)(2)(a), and 408(A)(1) are hereby
7 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §402.1. Driver education; required

9 A. No application for a license for the operation of a motor vehicle shall be
10 received from any person making application for the first time unless there is also
11 submitted with the application, on a form approved by the secretary of the
12 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, written
13 evidence of the successful completion by the applicant of one of the following:

14 (1)(a) A "driver education course" for any person under the age of eighteen,
15 which shall consist of not less than eight hours of actual driving instruction and thirty
16 hours of classroom instruction. A person shall not be allowed to receive more than
17 four hours of actual driving instruction on any single calendar day. The Department

1 of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, shall establish rules and
 2 regulations to administer and define the requirements of the course. The rules and
 3 regulations established by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public
 4 safety services, shall provide for instruction relative **to trailer safety and** to the
 5 economic effects of littering. Oversight review of these rules shall be conducted by
 6 the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works in
 7 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

8 * * *

9 (2) A "prelicensing training course" from any person eighteen years or older
 10 if a driver education course is not completed. The prelicensing training course shall
 11 consist of a minimum of six hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of eight
 12 hours of actual driving instruction. A person shall not be allowed to receive more
 13 than four hours of actual driving instruction on any single calendar day. The
 14 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, shall establish
 15 rules and regulations to administer and define the requirements of the course.
 16 Oversight review of these rules shall be conducted by the House and Senate
 17 committees on transportation, highways and public works in accordance with the
 18 Administrative Procedure Act. The rules shall provide for:

19 * * *

20 (b) Course content and presentation, including content relative **to trailer**
 21 **safety and** to the economic effects of littering.

22 * * *

23 §407. Application of minors; revocation; applications of persons less than
 24 twenty-one years of age

25 A.(1) * * *

26 (2)(a) Upon completion of a driver's education course approved by the
 27 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, and upon
 28 passing a visual examination and a road knowledge test, including rules of the road,
 29 signs, and signals, sharing the road with motorcycles and tractor/trailer trucks,

1 knowledge of distracted driving issues, **knowledge of trailer safety**; and not less
2 than two questions relative to railroad and highway grade railroad safety, an
3 applicant at least fifteen years of age, but less than seventeen years of age, applying
4 for the first time may be issued a Class "E" learner's license. The license may be
5 issued for a four-year period at the same fee as a Class "E" driver's license and must
6 be maintained for at least one hundred eighty days, unless prior to such time the
7 driver reaches seventeen years of age, prior to being converted to a Class "E"
8 intermediate driver's license. The Class "E" learner's license shall authorize the
9 holder to drive while being accompanied by a licensed parent, guardian, adult at least
10 age twenty-one or older, or licensed sibling at least age eighteen or older.

11 * * *

12 §408. Examination of applicants required; classes of licenses

13 A.(1) Except as otherwise provided, every applicant must pass a written
14 knowledge and skills test for a motor vehicle representative of the type of motor
15 vehicle he operates or expects to operate, or provide evidence on a form approved
16 by the department that he has successfully passed the written knowledge test and a
17 driving or skills test administered by an authorized third party. In addition to the
18 specialized knowledge and skills tests, each such examination shall include: a test
19 of the applicant's eyesight; his ability to understand highway signs regulating,
20 warning, and directing traffic; his knowledge of railroad and highway grade crossing
21 safety; his knowledge of sharing the road with motorcycles and tractor/trailer trucks;
22 his knowledge of the economic effects of littering; his knowledge of distracted
23 driving issues; **his knowledge of trailer safety**; and his knowledge of all relevant
24 traffic regulations.

25 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

DIGEST

SB 100 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Gary Smith

Present law requires individuals who apply for a driver's license to submit written evidence of successful completion of either a "driver education course" or "prelicensing training course".

Present law requires the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, to establish rules and regulations to administer and define the requirements of driver education and prelicensing training courses.

Proposed law retains present law and requires driver education and prelicensing training courses to include course content relative to trailer safety.

Present law requires that individuals, as part of the application procedure to obtain a license to operate a motor vehicle, to pass a road knowledge test which includes rules of the road, signs, and signals, sharing the road with motorcycles and tractor/trailer trucks, economic effects of littering, distracted driving, and not less than two questions relative to railroad and highway grade crossing safety, and knowledge of all relevant traffic regulations.

Proposed law retains present law but requires that the road knowledge test include knowledge of trailer safety.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 32:402.1(A)(1)(a) and (2)(b), 407(A)(2)(a), and 408(A)(1))