STATE OF NEW YORK

2678--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 20, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. SKARTADOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to requiring drivers between sixteen and twenty-five years of age to take and pass the national safety council course, or a similar nationally approved course approved by the department of motor vehicles in order to obtain a license or upon conviction of a moving violation

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new paragraph (c-1) to read as follows:

(c-1) (i) As a prerequisite to receiving a license, an applicant for a class D license who is at least sixteen but not more than twenty-five years of age shall be required to take and pass the national safety council course, or a similar nationally recognized psychology-based, behavioral course approved by the department, relating to young driver's attitudes and behaviors behind the wheel.

(ii) A driving safety course designed for drivers younger than twenty-five years of age must:

(A) be a four hour classroom-based course that utilizes compelling videos, peer discussions, highly interactive team exercises, role playing and workbook exercises specific to young drivers;

(B) include instruction on:

(1) the definition of "preventable collision" and the characteristics of a preventable collision;

(2) the traffic laws of this state;

(3) issues commonly associated with motor vehicle accidents involving drivers younger than twenty-five years of age, including the consequences of making poor decisions, taking unnecessary risks, identifying behavior that can be controlled, risks associated with specific driving

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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choices and behaviors, driving without seat belts, speed kills, risks, challenges and techniques associated with navigating intersections and right-of-way situations, following too closely, aggressive driving and road rage;

(4) manual, visual, and cognitive distractions relative to cell phones and hands free devices, use of in-vehicle infotainment systems, adjustment of controls, use of gps and road maps and multi-tasking while driving a vehicle and the role of peer pressure in those situations;

(5) impaired driving related to fatigue;

(6) impaired driving related to drugs and alcohol;

(7) techniques for identification of potential hazards on the road and consequences of unsafe driving behaviors;

(8) the effect of poor driver decision-making on the family, friends, school, and community of a young driver; and

(9) the importance of taking control of potentially dangerous driving situations both as a driver and as a passenger; and

(C) require a written commitment plan by the student to family and friends whereby the student commits to appropriate and respectful driving behaviors.

(iii) Any driver at least eighteen but not more than twenty-five years of age who is convicted of one or multiple moving violations for a single traffic stop shall be required to take an eight-hour course approved by the department.

(A) the course curriculum must be an eight hour classroom-based course and must include instruction regarding:

(1) proven psychological principles that lead to effective behavioral change such as Dr. William Glasser's "choice theory", as it relates to behind-the-wheel driving behavior;

(2) why drivers do or do not choose to obey traffic laws with the primary focus on behaviors rather than excuses; and

(3) additional problem driver behaviors including, but not limited to: hazards associated with prescriptive and over-the-counter drugs, including synergism; impacts of driving with excessive speed; impacts of right-of-way violations; dangers of distracted driving; proper passing and following distances; aggressive driving behaviors and the human ability to choose behavior.

(B) The course shall:

(1) encourage the problem driver to explore and understand his or her own attitudes in various driving situations; and

(2) teach the problem driver that poor behavioral choices made behind the wheel often result in unintended consequences, including motor vehicle violations, or accidents, and that the driver shall appreciate the responsibility placed upon each driver to conform his or her driving conduct for the benefit of other motorists, pedestrians and themselves.

(C) The training shall be highly interactive, classroom-based, and engaging, taking advantage of various forms of media.

§ 2. The commissioner of the department of motor vehicles will establish an application fee for the driver safety course described in section one of this act, as he or she deems appropriate. The fee shall be paid by applicants for a class D license who are under the age of twenty-five. All revenues generated by such fees shall be expended to cover the costs of implementing the driver's safety course program and the processing of any information necessary to implementing the program.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law.