

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1082

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 10, 2019

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Introduced by Sen. PERSAUD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the insurance law, in relation to instruction concerning traffic stops

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of  
2 section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 355 of  
3 the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

4 (i) Upon submission of an application for a driver's license, the  
5 applicant shall be required to take and pass a test, or submit evidence  
6 of passage of a test, with respect to the laws relating to traffic, the  
7 laws relating to driving while ability is impaired and while intoxicat-  
8 ed, under the overpowering influence of "Road Rage", "Work Zone Safety"  
9 awareness and "Motorcycle Safety" awareness as defined by the commis-  
10 sioner, the law relating to exercising due care to avoid colliding with  
11 a parked, stopped or standing authorized emergency vehicle or hazard  
12 vehicle pursuant to section eleven hundred forty-four-a of this chapter,  
13 the ability to read and comprehend traffic signs and symbols, the  
14 responsibilities of a driver when stopped by a law enforcement officer  
15 and such other matters as the commissioner may prescribe, and to satis-  
16 factorily complete a course prescribed by the commissioner of not less  
17 than four hours and not more than five hours, consisting of classroom  
18 driver training and highway safety instruction or the equivalent there-  
19 of. Such test shall include at least seven written questions concerning  
20 the effects of consumption of alcohol or drugs on the ability of a  
21 person to operate a motor vehicle and the legal and financial conse-  
22 quences resulting from violations of section eleven hundred ninety-two  
23 of this chapter, prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while  
24 under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Such test shall include one or  
25 more written questions concerning the devastating effects of "Road Rage"

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

LBD00931-01-9

1 on the ability of a person to operate a motor vehicle and the legal and  
2 financial consequences resulting from assaulting, threatening or inter-  
3 fering with the lawful conduct of another person legally using the road-  
4 way. Such test shall include one or more questions concerning the poten-  
5 tial dangers to persons and equipment resulting from the unsafe  
6 operation of a motor vehicle in a work zone. Such test may include one  
7 or more questions concerning motorcycle safety. Such test may include  
8 one or more questions concerning the law for exercising due care to  
9 avoid colliding with a parked, stopped or standing vehicle pursuant to  
10 section eleven hundred forty-four-a of this chapter. Such test shall  
11 include one or more questions concerning the responsibilities of a driv-  
12 er when stopped by a law enforcement officer. Such test shall be admin-  
13 istered by the commissioner. The commissioner shall cause the applicant  
14 to take a vision test and a test for color blindness. Upon passage of  
15 the vision test, the application may be accepted and the application fee  
16 shall be payable.

17 § 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section 502 of the vehicle and  
18 traffic law, as amended by chapter 355 of the laws of 2017, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 (b) Upon successful completion of the requirements set forth in para-  
21 graph (a) of this subdivision which shall include an alcohol and drug  
22 education component as described in paragraph (c) of this subdivision, a  
23 "Road Rage" awareness component as described in paragraph (c-1) of this  
24 subdivision and a "Work Zone Safety" awareness component as described in  
25 paragraph (c-2) of this subdivision, and a "Motorcycle Safety" awareness  
26 component as described in paragraph (c-3) of this subdivision, and a  
27 traffic stop instruction component as described in paragraph (c-4) of  
28 this subdivision, the commissioner shall cause the applicant to take a  
29 road test in a representative vehicle of a type prescribed by the  
30 commissioner which shall be appropriate to the type of license for which  
31 application is made, except that the commissioner may waive the road  
32 test requirements for certain classes of applicants. The commissioner  
33 shall have the power to establish a program to allow persons other than  
34 employees of the department to conduct road tests in representative  
35 vehicles when such tests are required for applicants to obtain a class  
36 A, B or C license. If she chooses to do so, she shall set forth her  
37 reasons in writing and conduct a public hearing on the matter. She shall  
38 only establish such a program after holding the public hearing.

39 § 3. Subdivision 4 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law is  
40 amended by adding a new paragraph (c-4) to read as follows:

41 (c-4) Traffic stop instruction component. (i) The commissioner shall  
42 provide in the pre-licensing course, set forth in paragraph (b) of this  
43 subdivision, a mandatory component in traffic stop instruction as a  
44 prerequisite for obtaining a license to operate a motor vehicle. The  
45 purpose of this component is to educate prospective licensees on his or  
46 her responsibilities when stopped by a law enforcement officer.

47 (ii) The commissioner shall establish a curriculum for the traffic  
48 stop instruction component which shall include but not be limited to:  
49 instruction describing appropriate actions to be taken by drivers during  
50 traffic stops and appropriate interactions with law enforcement officers  
51 who initiate traffic stops. The curriculum shall also explain a driver's  
52 responsibilities when stopped by a law enforcement officer, including  
53 pulling to the far right side of the road when being stopped; turning  
54 off the motor vehicle's engine and radio; avoiding sudden movements and  
55 keeping the driver's hands in plain view of the officer.

1     § 4. Subsection (a) of section 2336 of the insurance law, as amended  
2 by chapter 751 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

3     (a) Any schedule of rates or rating plan for motor vehicle liability  
4 and collision insurance submitted to the superintendent shall provide  
5 for an appropriate reduction in premium charges for any insured for a  
6 three year period after successfully completing a motor vehicle accident  
7 prevention course, known as the national safety council's defensive  
8 driving course, or any driver improvement course approved by the depart-  
9 ment of motor vehicles as being equivalent to the national safety coun-  
10 cil's defensive driving course, provided that, except as provided in  
11 article twelve-C of the vehicle and traffic law, there shall be no  
12 reduction in premiums for a self instruction defensive driving course or  
13 a course which does not provide for actual classroom instruction for a  
14 minimum number of hours as determined by the department of motor vehi-  
15 cles. Such reduction in premium charges shall be subsequently modified  
16 to the extent appropriate, based upon analysis of loss experience  
17 statistics and other relevant factors. All such accident prevention  
18 courses shall be monitored by the department of motor vehicles and shall  
19 include components of instruction in "Road Rage" awareness [~~and~~], in  
20 "Work Zone Safety" awareness and in traffic stops as defined by the  
21 commissioner of motor vehicles. The provisions of this section shall not  
22 apply to attendance at a program pursuant to article twenty-one of the  
23 vehicle and traffic law as a result of any traffic infraction.

24     § 5. Subsection (a) of section 2336 of the insurance law, as amended  
25 by chapter 585 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

26     (a) Any schedule of rates or rating plan for motor vehicle liability  
27 and collision insurance submitted to the superintendent shall provide  
28 for an appropriate reduction in premium charges for any insured for a  
29 three year period after successfully completing a motor vehicle accident  
30 prevention course, known as the national safety council's defensive  
31 driving course, or any driver improvement course approved by the depart-  
32 ment of motor vehicles as being equivalent to the national safety coun-  
33 cil's defensive driving course, provided that in either event there  
34 shall be no reduction in premiums for a self instruction defensive driv-  
35 ing course or a course which does not provide for actual classroom  
36 instruction for a minimum number of hours as determined by the depart-  
37 ment of motor vehicles. Such reduction in premium charges shall be  
38 subsequently modified to the extent appropriate, based upon analysis of  
39 loss experience statistics and other relevant factors. All such accident  
40 prevention courses shall be monitored by the department of motor vehi-  
41 cles and shall include components of instruction in "Road Rage" aware-  
42 ness [~~and~~], in "Work Zone Safety" awareness and in traffic stops as  
43 defined by the commissioner of motor vehicles. The provisions of this  
44 section shall not apply to attendance at a program pursuant to article  
45 twenty-one of the vehicle and traffic law as a result of any traffic  
46 infraction.

47     § 6. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the amend-  
48 ments to subsection (a) of section 2336 of the insurance law, made by  
49 section four of this act, shall not affect the expiration and reversion  
50 of such subsection and shall be deemed repealed therewith, when upon  
51 such date section five of this act shall take effect.