

STATE OF NEW YORK

2960

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 31, 2019

Introduced by Sen. KAPLAN -- 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, in relation to adding a school bus safety component to the pre-licensing driver's education course

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) and paragraphs (b) and
2 (d) of subdivision 4 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as
3 amended by chapter 355 of the laws of 2017, are amended and a new para-
4 graph (c-4) is added to read as follows:

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

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

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1 one or more written questions concerning the devastating effects of
2 "Road Rage" on the ability of a person to operate a motor vehicle and
3 the legal and financial consequences resulting from assaulting, threat-
4 ening or interfering with the lawful conduct of another person legally
5 using the roadway. Such test shall include one or more questions
6 concerning the potential dangers to persons and equipment resulting from
7 the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle in a work zone. Such test may
8 include one or more questions concerning motorcycle safety. Such test
9 may include one or more questions concerning the law for exercising due
10 care to avoid colliding with a parked, stopped or standing vehicle
11 pursuant to section eleven hundred forty-four-a of this chapter. Such
12 test shall include one or more questions concerning school bus safety.
13 Such test shall be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner
14 shall cause the applicant to take a vision test and a test for color
15 blindness. Upon passage of the vision test, the application may be
16 accepted and the application fee shall be payable.

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

36 (c-4) "School bus safety" component. (i) The commissioner shall
37 provide in the pre-licensing course, set forth in paragraph (b) of this
38 subdivision, a mandatory component in "school bus safety" education as a
39 prerequisite for obtaining a license to operate a motor vehicle. The
40 purpose of the component is to educate prospective licensees on the
41 dangers of passing a school bus in violation of section eleven hundred
42 seventy-four of this chapter, to reduce the number of such incidents,
43 and to promote school bus safety.

44 (ii) The commissioner shall establish a curriculum for the "school bus
45 safety" component which shall include, but shall not be limited to, an
46 overview of traffic laws governing overtaking and passing school buses,
47 specifically section eleven hundred seventy-four of this chapter.

48 (iii) In developing such curriculum, the commissioner shall consult
49 with the commissioner of transportation.

50 (d) The commissioner shall make available for distribution upon regis-
51 tration at each location where the pre-licensing course will be given,
52 instructional handbooks outlining the content of the entire curriculum
53 of the pre-licensing course including the information required to be
54 included in the course pursuant to paragraphs (c), (c-1), (c-2) ~~and~~,
55 (c-3) and (c-4) of this subdivision. The commissioner shall also provide
56 for the additional training of the instructors necessary for the compe-

1 tent instruction of the alcohol and drug education, "Road Rage" aware-
2 ness, "Work Zone Safety" awareness [~~and~~], "Motorcycle Safety" awareness
3 and "school bus safety" subject matters of the pre-licensing course.
4 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.