STATE OF NEW YORK

3583

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 28, 2025

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 rotary and roundabout use and safety awareness in the pre-licensing course

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

Section 1. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) and paragraphs (b) and (d) of subdivision 4 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) and paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 379 of the laws of 2022 and paragraph (d) as amended by chapter 477 of the laws of 2024, are amended and a new paragraph (c-6) is added to read as follows:

(i) Upon submission of an application for a driver's license, the applicant shall be required to take and pass a test, or submit evidence of passage of a test, with respect to the laws relating to traffic, the laws relating to driving while ability is impaired and while intoxicated, under the overpowering influence of "Road Rage", "Work Zone Safety" awareness, "Motorcycle Safety" awareness and "Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety" awareness as defined by the commissioner, "School Bus Safety" awareness, **"Rotary and Roundabout Use and Safety",** the law relating to exercising due care to avoid colliding with a parked, stopped or standing authorized emergency vehicle or hazard vehicle pursuant to section eleven hundred forty-four-a of this chapter, the ability to read and comprehend traffic signs and symbols and such other matters as the commissioner may prescribe, and to satisfactorily complete a course prescribed by the commissioner of not less than four hours and not more than five hours, consisting of classroom driver training and highway safety instruction or the equivalent thereof. Such test shall include at least seven written questions concerning the effects of consumption of alcohol or drugs on the ability of a person to operate a motor vehicle and the legal and financial consequences resulting from violations of

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

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section eleven hundred ninety-two of this chapter, prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Such test shall include one or more written questions concerning the devastating effects of "Road Rage" on the ability of a person to operate a motor vehicle and the legal and financial consequences resulting from assaulting, threatening or interfering with the lawful conduct of another person legally using the roadway. Such test shall include one or more questions concerning the potential dangers to persons and equipment resulting from the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle in a work zone. Such test may include one or more questions concerning motorcycle safety. Such test may include one or more questions concerning the law for exercising due care to avoid colliding with a parked, stopped or standing vehicle pursuant to section eleven hundred forty-four-a of this chapter. Such test may include one or more questions concerning school bus safety. Such test may include one or more questions concerning pedestrian and bicyclist safety. **Such test may include one or more questions concerning rotary and roundabout use and safety.** Such test shall be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner shall cause the applicant to take a vision test and a test for color blindness. Upon passage of the vision test, the application may be accepted and the application fee shall be payable.

(b) Upon successful completion of the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this subdivision which shall include an alcohol and drug education component as described in paragraph (c) of this subdivision, a "Road Rage" awareness component as described in paragraph (c-1) of this subdivision, a "Work Zone Safety" awareness component as described in paragraph (c-2) of this subdivision, a "Motorcycle Safety" awareness component as described in paragraph (c-3) of this subdivision, a "School Bus Safety" awareness component as described in paragraph (c-4) of this subdivision, [~~and~~] a "Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety" awareness component as described in paragraph (c-5) of this subdivision**, and a rotary and roundabout use and safety awareness component as described in paragraph (c-6) of this subdivision**, the commissioner shall cause the applicant to take a road test in a representative vehicle of a type prescribed by the commissioner which shall be appropriate to the type of license for which application is made, except that the commissioner may waive the road test requirements for certain classes of applicants. Provided, however, that the term "representative vehicle" shall not include a three-wheeled motor vehicle that has two wheels situated in the front and one wheel in the rear, has a steering mechanism and seating which does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride, is equipped with safety belts for all occupants and is manufactured to comply with federal motor vehicle safety standards for motorcycles including, but not limited to, 49 C.F.R. part 571. The commissioner shall have the power to establish a program to allow persons other than employees of the department to conduct road tests in representative vehicles when such tests are required for applicants to obtain a class A, B or C license. If [~~she~~] **such commissioner** chooses to do so, [~~she~~] **such commissioner** shall set forth [~~her~~] reasons in writing and conduct a public hearing on the matter. [~~She~~] **Such commissioner** shall only establish such a program after holding the public hearing.

(c-6) Rotary and roundabout use and safety awareness component. (i) The commissioner shall provide in the pre-licensing course, set forth in paragraph (b) of this subdivision, a mandatory component in rotary and roundabout use and safety awareness education as a prerequisite for obtaining a license to operate a motor vehicle. The purpose of the

component is to educate prospective licensees on rotary and roundabout use and safety, including, but not limited to, when to yield and when to enter such rotary or roundabout pursuant to section eleven hundred forty-five of this chapter.

(ii) In developing such curriculum, the commissioner shall consult with the commissioner of transportation.

(d) (i) The commissioner shall make available for distribution upon registration at each location where the pre-licensing course will be given (1) instructional handbooks outlining the content of the entire curriculum of the pre-licensing course including the information required to be included in the course pursuant to paragraphs (c), (c-1), (c-2), (c-3), (c-4) [~~and~~], (c-5) and (c-6) of this subdivision, and (2) information as to how a person may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law.

(ii) The commissioner shall also provide for the additional training of the instructors necessary for the competent instruction of the alcohol and drug education, "Road Rage" awareness, "Work Zone Safety" awareness, "Motorcycle Safety" awareness, "School Bus Safety" awareness [~~and~~], "Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety" awareness and rotary roundabout use and safety awareness subject matters of the pre-licensing course.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that if chapter 477 of the laws of 2024 shall not have taken effect on or before such date then the amendments to paragraph (d) of subdivision 4 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law made by section one of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as such chapter of the laws of 2024, takes effect.