

SENATE BILL No. 124

February 9, 2017, Introduced by Senators O'BRIEN, KNEZEK and BIEDA and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 2006 PA 384, entitled
"Driver education provider and instructor act,"
by amending section 37 (MCL 256.657), as amended by 2014 PA 317.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 37. (1) A segment 1 curriculum shall include both
2 classroom and behind-the-wheel driver education course experience.
3 The classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel instruction shall be
4 integrated, relate to each other, and meet the following
5 requirements:

6 (a) Each student shall receive not less than 24 hours of
7 classroom instruction. Classroom instruction shall be scheduled to
8 occur as follows:

9 (i) Classroom instruction shall occur not more than 2 hours
10 per day.

1 (ii) Classroom instruction shall occur over the course of 3 or
2 more weeks.

3 (iii) Classroom instruction of 4 or more hours shall be
4 received before the student begins to receive behind-the-wheel
5 instruction.

6 (iv) Classroom instruction shall include **NOT LESS THAN 1 HOUR**
7 **OF** information concerning the laws pertaining to bicycles, ~~and~~
8 **motorcycles, AND OTHER VULNERABLE ROADWAY USERS, INCLUDING**
9 **PEDESTRIANS,** and shall emphasize awareness of their operation on
10 the streets, roads, and highways of this state. **THE LAWS OF THIS**
11 **STATE PERTAINING TO AWARENESS OF BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES, AND OTHER**
12 **VULNERABLE ROADWAY USERS, INCLUDING PEDESTRIANS, SHALL ALSO BE**
13 **INCORPORATED INTO ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE, BUT**
14 **IS NOT LIMITED TO, LAWS PERTAINING TO YIELDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY,**
15 **TRAVELING AT A SAFE AND REASONABLE SPEED FOR CONDITIONS, ENSURING A**
16 **SAFE DISTANCE, AND DISTRACTED DRIVING.**

17 (v) Behind-the-wheel instruction of 3 or more hours shall be
18 completed before classroom instruction terminates.

19 (b) Each student shall receive not less than 6 hours of
20 behind-the-wheel instruction or substitute hours permitted under
21 this subsection. Behind-the-wheel instruction shall be scheduled to
22 occur as follows:

23 (i) A student shall receive not more than 1 hour of behind-
24 the-wheel instruction per day.

25 (ii) Not more than 1 student shall occupy the front seat of
26 the vehicle with the instructor.

27 (iii) A driver education motor vehicle shall contain not more

1 than 4 students during behind-the-wheel instruction.

2 (iv) Not later than 3 weeks after the last classroom
3 instruction has been completed, a student shall complete any
4 remaining required behind-the-wheel instruction.

5 (v) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a student
6 may receive instruction while operating a motor vehicle at a
7 multiple vehicle driving facility. One hour of instruction received
8 at a multiple vehicle driving facility may substitute as credit for
9 1 hour of behind-the-wheel experience. A maximum of 2 hours of
10 behind-the-wheel experience can be substituted with instruction
11 received at a multiple vehicle driving facility.

12 (c) A student shall receive 4 or more hours of behind-the-
13 wheel observation time.

14 (2) A driver education provider classified for teen driver
15 training shall not substitute behind-the-wheel instruction with
16 multiple vehicle driving facility experience until the secretary of
17 state gives the provider written approval for that substitution as
18 provided in this act.

19 (3) A driver education provider classified for teen driver
20 training shall not substitute behind-the-wheel driving experience
21 with simulator device training.

22 (4) As used in this section:

23 (a) "Integrated" means classroom and behind-the-wheel
24 instruction scheduled to include a mix of classroom and behind-the-
25 wheel instruction throughout the duration of the driver education
26 course, except as otherwise provided in this section.

27 (b) "Observation time" means the time a student in a driver

1 education course sits in the rear seat of a vehicle and observes
2 another student in the front seat behind the wheel operating the
3 controls of the vehicle, responding to driving situations, and with
4 an instructor sitting in the front seat.

5 (5) This section shall be known and may be cited as the
6 "Nathan Bower act".

7 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
8 after the date it is enacted into law.