

Nicholeen P. Peck proposes the following substitute bill:

Parent Taught Driver Education Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Nicholeen P. Peck

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill allows a parent to complete driver education requirements as an instructor for the parent's child.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- directs a local education agency to provide a parent with materials necessary to complete driver education classroom requirements for the parent's child;
- allows a parent to complete all the education requirements and behind-the-wheel driving hours for driver education purposes; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53-3-210.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 242

53-3-211, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 314

53-3-505.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 415

53G-10-508, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 247

ENACTS:

53G-10-509, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53-3-210.5** is amended to read:

53-3-210.5 . Learner permit.

- 30 (1) The division, upon receiving an application for a learner permit, may issue a learner
31 permit effective for 18 months to an applicant who is at least 15 years old.
- 32 (2)(a) The learner permit entitles an applicant that is 18 years old or older to operate a
33 class D motor vehicle only if [~~a person~~] an individual 21 years old or older who is a
34 licensed driver is occupying a seat beside the applicant.
- 35 (b) The learner permit entitles an applicant that is younger than 18 years old to operate a
36 class D motor vehicle only if:
- 37 (i) an approved driving instructor is occupying a seat beside the applicant;
- 38 (ii) the applicant's parent or legal guardian, who must be a licensed driver, is
39 occupying a seat beside the applicant;
- 40 (iii) a responsible adult who has signed for the applicant under Section 53-3-211 and
41 who must be a licensed driver, is occupying a seat beside the applicant; or
- 42 (iv) a responsible individual 21 years old or older who is not the parent or legal
43 guardian is occupying a seat beside the applicant and:
- 44 (A) the parent or legal guardian is not a licensed driver;
- 45 (B) the individual occupying the seat beside the applicant has in the individual's
46 immediate possession evidence that the individual is authorized by the parent
47 or legal guardian to accompany the applicant while operating the motor
48 vehicle; and
- 49 (C) the individual occupying the seat beside the applicant is a licensed driver.
- 50 (c) The applicant shall have the learner permit in the applicant's immediate possession
51 while operating the motor vehicle.
- 52 (3) The division shall issue a learner permit to an applicant who:
- 53 (a) is at least 15 years old;
- 54 (b) has passed the knowledge test required by the division;
- 55 (c) has passed the physical and mental fitness tests; and
- 56 (d) has submitted a nonrefundable fee for a learner permit under Section 53-3-105.
- 57 (4)(a) The division shall supply the learner permit form.
- 58 (b) The form under Subsection (4)(a) shall include:
- 59 (i) the applicant's full name, date of birth, sex, Utah residence address, height, weight,
60 and eye color;
- 61 (ii) the date of issuance and expiration of the permit; and
- 62 (iii) the conditions and restrictions contained in this section for operating a class D
63 motor vehicle.

- 64 (5) An application and fee for a learner permit entitle the applicant to:
- 65 (a) not more than three attempts to pass the knowledge test for a class D license within
- 66 one year; and
- 67 (b) a learner permit after the knowledge test is passed.
- 68 (6)(a) If an applicant has been issued a learner permit under this section or an equivalent
- 69 by another state or branch of the United States Armed Forces, the applicant may be
- 70 issued an original or provisional class D license from the division upon:
- 71 (i) completing a driver education course~~[in a]~~:
- 72 (A) in a commercial driver training school licensed under Part 5, Commercial
- 73 Driver Training Schools Act;~~[or]~~
- 74 (B) in a driver education program approved by the State Board of Education or the
- 75 division;or
- 76 (C) with the applicant's parent as described in Section 53G-10-509;
- 77 (ii) passing a knowledge test approved by the division that complies with the
- 78 requirement of Subsection (6)(d);
- 79 (iii) passing the skills test approved by the division;
- 80 (iv) reaching 16 years old; and
- 81 (v) paying the nonrefundable fee for an original or provisional class D license
- 82 application under Section 53-3-105.
- 83 (b) In addition to the requirements under Subsection (6)(a), an applicant who is 17 years
- 84 old or younger is required to hold a learner permit for six months before applying for
- 85 a provisional class D license.
- 86 (c) An applicant is exempt from the requirement under Subsection (6)(a)(i) if the
- 87 applicant:
- 88 (i) is 19 years old or older;
- 89 (ii) holds a learner permit for three months before applying for an original class D
- 90 license; and
- 91 (iii) certifies that the applicant, under the authority of a permit issued under this
- 92 chapter, has completed at least 40 hours of driving a motor vehicle, of which at
- 93 least 10 hours were completed during night hours after sunset.
- 94 (d) Fifty percent of the test questions included in the knowledge test required under
- 95 Subsection (6)(a)(ii) shall cover the topic of major causes of traffic related deaths as
- 96 identified in statistics published by the Highway Safety Office.

97 Section 2. Section **53-3-211** is amended to read:

98 **53-3-211 . Application of minors -- Liability of person signing application --**
99 **Cancellation of cosigning adult's liability -- Behind-the-wheel driving certification.**

100 (1) As used in this section, "minor" means any [~~person~~] individual younger than 18 years [of
101 age] old who is not married or has not been emancipated by adjudication.

102 (2)(a) The application of a minor for a learner permit or provisional license shall be
103 signed by the parent or guardian of the applicant.

104 (b) If the minor applicant does not have a parent or guardian or is in the legal custody of
105 the Division of Child and Family Services, then a parent or responsible adult who is
106 willing to assume the obligation imposed under this chapter may sign the application.

107 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (4), the liability of a minor for civil
108 compensatory damages caused when operating a motor vehicle upon a highway is
109 imputed to the [~~person~~] individual who has signed the application of the minor under
110 Subsection (2).

111 (b) The [~~person~~] individual who has signed the application under Subsection (2) is jointly
112 and severally liable with the minor as provided in Subsections (3)(a) and (c).

113 (c) The liability imposed under Subsections (3)(a) and (b) is limited to the policy
114 minimum limits established in Section 31A-22-304.

115 (d) The liability provisions in this Subsection (3) are in addition to the liability
116 provisions in Section 53-3-212.

117 (4)(a) If owner's or operator's security covering the minor's operation of the motor
118 vehicle is in effect in amounts as required under Section 31A-22-304, the [~~person~~]
119 individual who signed the minor's application under Subsection (2) is not subject to
120 the liability imposed under Subsection (3).

121 (b) Notwithstanding the requirement under Subsection (3), if a foster parent signs an
122 application under Subsection (2) for a minor who is in the legal custody of the
123 Division of Child and Family Services and who resides with the foster parent, the
124 foster parent's liability may not exceed the greater of:

125 (i) minimum liability insurance policy limits established under Section 31A-22-304;

126 or

127 (ii) the policy limits of the foster parent's liability insurance policy issued in
128 accordance with Section 31A-22-302 that were in effect at the time damages were
129 caused by the minor's operation of a motor vehicle.

130 (5)(a) [~~A person~~] An individual who has signed the application of a minor under
131 Subsection (2) may file with the division a verified written request that the permit or

- 132 license of the minor be canceled.
- 133 (b) The division shall then cancel the permit or license of the minor, and the [person]
134 individual who signed the application of the minor under Subsection (2) is relieved
135 from the liability imposed under Subsection (3) or the minor operating a motor
136 vehicle subsequent to the cancellation.
- 137 (6)(a) The division upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of the death of the [person]
138 individual who signed the application of a minor under Subsection (2) shall cancel
139 the permit or license and may not issue a new permit or license until a new
140 application, signed and verified, is made under this chapter.
- 141 (b) This Subsection (6) does not apply to an application of [~~a person~~] an individual who
142 is no longer a minor.
- 143 (7)(a) In addition to the liability assumed under this section, the [person] individual who
144 signs the application of a minor for a provisional license must certify that, under the
145 authority of a permit issued under this chapter, the minor applicant[~~, under the~~
146 ~~authority of a permit issued under this chapter, has~~] :
- 147 (i) completed at least 40 hours of driving a motor vehicle, of which at least 10 hours
148 shall be during night hours after sunset[~~;~~] ; and
- 149 (ii) if the minor applicant completed driver education requirements with a parent as
150 described in Section 53G-10-509, attended a Zero Fatalities Parent-Teen Night
151 provided by the Department of Transportation with a parent, either virtually or in
152 person.
- 153 (b) The hours of driving a motor vehicle required under Subsection (7)(a) may include:
154 (i) hours completed in a driver education course as required under Subsection
155 53-3-505.5(1); and
156 (ii) up to five hours completed by driving simulation practice on a fully interactive
157 driving simulation device at the substitution rate provided under Subsection
158 53-3-505.5(2)(b).
- 159 (8)(a) The individual signing the application form described in Subsection (7)(a) shall
160 indicate if the applicant intends to complete the driver education course requirement
161 with the applicant's parent as described in Section 53G-10-509.
- 162 (b) If an applicant's parent as defined in Section 53G-10-509 signs the form indicating
163 that the applicant will complete the driver education course requirement as described
164 in Subsection (8)(a), the division shall inform the parent that parent-taught driver
165 education resources as described in Subsection 53G-10-508(2) are available from a

166 local education agency.

167 (9) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
 168 division may make rules creating and managing:

169 (a) a form allowing a parent instructing a child in driver education as described in
 170 Section 53G-10-509 to track the child's driving hours as described in Subsections
 171 53G-10-509(3)(a), (b), and (c);

172 (b) a process of scanning and recording the driving hours form described in Subsection
 173 (9)(a); and

174 (c) other processes or forms necessary to implement parent-taught driver education as
 175 described in Section 53G-10-509.

176 Section 3. Section **53-3-505.5** is amended to read:

177 **53-3-505.5 . Behind-the-wheel training requirements.**

178 (1) Except as provided under Subsection (2) and Section 53G-3-509, a driver education
 179 course under this part or Title 53G, Chapter 10, Part 5, Driver Education Classes, that is
 180 used to satisfy the driver training requirement under Section 53-3-204 shall require each
 181 student to complete at least six hours of behind-the-wheel driving a dual-control motor
 182 vehicle with a certified instructor seated in the front seat next to the student driver.

183 (2) Up to three hours of the behind-the-wheel driving may be substituted as follows:

184 (a) two hours of range driving on an approved driving range under Section 53G-10-502
 185 equals one hour of the behind-the-wheel driving required under Subsection (1);

186 (b) two hours of driving simulation practice on a driving simulation device that is fully
 187 interactive as set forth in rules made under Section 53-3-505, equals one hour of the
 188 behind-the-wheel driving required under Subsection (1); and

189 (c) four hours of driving simulation practice on a driving simulation device that is not
 190 fully interactive as set forth in rules made under Section 53-3-505, equals one hour of
 191 the behind-the-wheel driving required under Subsection (1), with a maximum of one
 192 hour of the behind-the-wheel driving required under Subsection (1) that may be
 193 substituted under this Subsection (2)(c).

194 (3) The behind-the-wheel driving required under Subsection (1) shall include, if feasible,
 195 driving on interstate and other multilane highways.

196 Section 4. Section **53G-10-508** is amended to read:

197 **53G-10-508 . Programs authorized -- Minimum standards.**

198 (1) A local education agency may:

199 [(a) allow a student to complete the classroom training portion of driver education

- 200 through home study;]
- 201 [~~(b)~~ provide each parent with driver education instructional materials to assist in parent
- 202 involvement with driver education including behind-the-wheel driving materials;]
- 203 [~~(e)~~] (a) offer driver education outside of school hours in order to reduce the cost of
- 204 providing driver education;
- 205 [~~(d)~~] (b) offer driver education through community education programs;
- 206 [~~(e)~~] (c) offer the classroom portion of driver education in the public schools and allow
- 207 the student to complete the behind-the-wheel portion with a private provider:
- 208 (i) licensed under Section 53-3-504; and
- 209 (ii) not associated with the school or under contract with the school under Subsection
- 210 53G-10-503(3); or
- 211 [~~(f)~~] (d) offer any combination of Subsections (1)(a) through [~~(e)~~]-] (c).
- 212 (2) A local education agency shall allow a student to complete the classroom training
- 213 portion of driver education through home study.
- 214 [~~(2)~~] (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
- 215 state board shall establish in rule minimum standards for the school-related programs
- 216 under [~~Subsection (1)-]~~ Subsections (1) and (2).
- 217 Section 5. Section **53G-10-509** is enacted to read:
- 218 **53G-10-509 . Parents as driver education instructors.**
- 219 (1) As used in this section:
- 220 (a) "Driver education requirement" means the requirement for driver education
- 221 described in Subsection 53-3-204(1)(a)(ii).
- 222 (b) "Observation time" means an individual observing another individual's operation of a
- 223 motor vehicle while the operator:
- 224 (i) follows all traffic laws;
- 225 (ii) comments out loud about driving behaviors and decisions made to safely operate
- 226 a motor vehicle; and
- 227 (iii) answers the observing individual's questions about the safe operation of a motor
- 228 vehicle.
- 229 (c) "Parent" means an individual's parent, stepparent, grandparent, foster parent, or legal
- 230 guardian.
- 231 (2) A local education agency, in connection with the Driver License Division, shall provide
- 232 material as described in Section 53G-10-508 to a parent to allow the parent to provide
- 233 instruction for a driver education requirement for the parent's own child or grandchild.

- 234 (3) In addition to the 40 hours of required driving as described in Subsection 53-3-211(7), a
 235 parent providing instruction for a driver education requirement for an individual shall:
 236 (a) sit beside the individual during all driving hours completed by the individual to fulfill
 237 behind-the-wheel driving hours requirements as described in Section 53-3-505.5;
 238 (b) complete six hours of observation time with the individual; and
 239 (c) complete classroom instruction time requirements as described in Section
 240 53G-10-502.
- 241 (4) An individual completing a driver education requirement by parent instruction:
 242 (a) is not required to use a dual-control motor vehicle as described in Section 53-3-505.5
 243 to complete the driving hours requirement as described in Subsection (3)(a);
 244 (b) may complete the six hours of behind-the-wheel driving as described in Section
 245 53-3-505.5 with a parent; and
 246 (c) shall complete the driving hours and observation hours requirements described in
 247 Subsection (3).
- 248 (5) An individual's parent may provide instruction for a driver education requirement for
 249 the individual if the individual's parent:
 250 (a) has a valid class D driver license;
 251 (b) states on the form described in Subsection 53-3-211(8) that the driver education
 252 requirement was fulfilled by parent instruction; ~~and~~ ←~~and~~ ←~~and~~
 253 (c) attends with the individual, in-person or virtually, a Zero Fatalities Parent-Teen
 254 Night provided by the Department of Transportation ~~and~~ ←~~and~~ ←~~and~~ ; and
 254a (d) **completes and retains driving logs equivalent to those required by the state board. ←~~and~~**
 255 **Section 6. Effective Date.**
 256 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.