

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: Heidi Balderree

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**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

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*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) ~~Ĥ~~ → ~~[A local education agency]~~ **The state board** ← ~~Ĥ~~ shall allow a student to

212a 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.

230a ~~Ĥ~~ → (2) **The Driver License Division shall inform a parent where to access material**

230b **provided by the state board as described in Subsection 53G-10-508(2) to allow the**

- 230c parent's own child or grandchild to complete the classroom training portion of driver  
 230d education through home study.
- 231 ~~[(2) A local education agency, in connection with t] ← Ĥ Ĥ→ [he Driver License Division,~~  
 231a ~~shall provide.] ← Ĥ~~  
 232 ~~Ĥ→ [material as described in Section 53G-10-508 to a parent to allow the parent to provide~~  
 ] ← Ĥ  
 233 ~~Ĥ→ [instruction for a driver education requirement for the parent's own child or~~  
~~grandchild.] ← Ĥ~~
- 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; Ĥ→ [and] ← Ĥ  
 253 (c) attends with the individual, in-person or virtually, a Zero Fatalities Parent-Teen  
 254 Night provided by the Department of Transportation Ĥ→ [;] ; and  
 254a (d) completes and retains driving logs equivalent to those required by the state board. ← Ĥ

255 Section 6. **Effective Date.**

256 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.