

2021 -- S 0779

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS'
LICENSES

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, and DiMario

Date Introduced: April 01, 2021

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-10 of the General Laws entitled "Operators' and Chauffeurs'
2 Licenses" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-10-20.1. Online driver education program pilot.**

4 (a) Effective October 1, 2021, current approved providers of classroom driver education
5 programs may offer the thirty-three (33) hour driver education program in an online and virtual
6 format. Successful completion of the online program must fulfill the requirements set forth in §§
7 31-10-19 and 31-10-20. This section of the law shall sunset on October 1, 2023.

8 (b) The online and virtual format driver education program will be evaluated by the online
9 driver education program study commission, whereupon a determination will be made whether to
10 make the pilot program permanent. The commission's findings and recommendations will be
11 reported to the state board of education no later than December 31, 2022. The online driver
12 education program study commission shall consist of the following members: one representative
13 of AAA-Northeast; one staff member of the community college of Rhode Island's driver education
14 program; the director of the Rhode Island division of motor vehicles, or designee; one certified
15 driver education teacher appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and the director
16 of the Rhode Island office of highway safety, or designee.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS'
LICENSES

1 This act would create a pilot program for the thirty-three (33) hour driver education
2 program to be offered in an online and virtual format, effective October 1, 2021 and would sunset
3 October 1, 2023. Additionally, this act would create the online driver education program study
4 commission to determine by December 31, 2022 if the pilot program should be permanent.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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