

**INFORMATION REPORT  
OF THE  
INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE  
ON  
DRIVER EDUCATION**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

**November 2011**

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# Interim Study Committee on Driver Education

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**November 2012**

## INFORMATION REPORT

### **Interim Study Committee on Driver Education**

#### **I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE**

P.L. 101-2009 (SEA 16-2009) established the Interim Study Committee on Driver Education. The Committee was directed to study the following:

- (1) the administration of driver education by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Education;
- (2) standards for an Internet component of driver instruction;
- (3) standards for a classroom component of driver instruction;
- (4) penalties for instructional providers that fail to follow the standards for instruction driving experience;
- (5) statistics for moving violations accrued by individuals less than eighteen (18) years of age who had:
  - (A) taken driver education with a classroom component of driver instruction;
  - (B) taken an Internet component of driver instruction; and
  - (C) no formal driver education;
- (6) the effectiveness of driver education courses on the accident rates of young drivers; and
- (7) the standards and curriculum content for an effective driver education program.

#### **II. SUMMARY OF CURRENT LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

As a result of P.L. 145-2011, the responsibility of commercial driving schools was transferred from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (IC 9-27-6). This transfer was effective January 1, 2012.

Additionally, the responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of minimum standards for driver education programs and equipment in the public schools was formerly governed by the Indiana State Board of Education. Under P.L. 145-2011, these responsibilities were also transferred to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), effective January 1, 2012.

IC 9-24-10-4 sets forth the items that are necessary for the granting of a learner's permit by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The administrative rules regarding the BMV's regulation of high school driver education programs are found in 140 IAC 4-4.

#### **III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Committee met two times during the 2012 interim session, on August 15, 2012, and September 20, 2012, in Room 233 of the Indiana State House, Indianapolis, Indiana.

#### **IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

On August 15, the Committee heard testimony from: (1) Mr. Shawn Walters, BMV Chief of Staff, concerning the transition of driver education responsibility from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the Department of Education (DOE) to the BMV; (2) Mr. Ryan Klitzsch, ICJI, concerning the transition of driver education responsibility from the ICJI to the BMV; (3) Lt. Mark Carnell, Indiana State Police (ISP), concerning access to driving records for criminal history background checks; (4) Mr. David Garrison, IVY Tech, regarding driver instructor training offered at IVY Tech locations; and (5) Ms. Karen Burkhardt, American Driving Academy of Kokomo, Indiana, concerning issues for student drivers. Additionally, the Committee was presented with written testimony from Ms. Sherry Deane, AAA, concerning driver education issues in the state.

On September 20, the Committee heard testimony from: (1) Ms. Karen Burkhardt, American Driving Academy of Kokomo, Indiana, on student driver education; (2) Mr. Ryan Klitzsch, ICJI, concerning graduated license federal incentive grants and nonfamilial passengers; and (3) Ms. Sherry Deane, AAA, concerning revising the age at which an individual can first receive a driver's education license. Additionally, the Committee discussed commercial driver's licenses for veterans returning from foreign conflict. Written suggestions for legislation were submitted by Ms. Betty Brandmiller of Safeway Driving School of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

#### **V. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee made no findings of fact.

The Committee did not recommend any legislation for introduction in the 2013 legislative session.

The Committee took the following actions:

- (1) The Committee, by voice vote, requested that the BMV track the online and classroom training that students receive in driver education beginning January 2013.
- (2) The Committee, by unanimous voice vote, recommended changing current statute (IC 9-24-7-4(2)) to allow any licensed driver over the age of 25 to accompany a learner's permit holder when in a driver education class as a supervising driver.
- (3) The Committee agreed by consent to recommend the BMV establish a policy to allow qualified returning military veterans to secure a CDL administratively, and if this could not be done, that legislation be introduced in the 2013 session to allow this licensing.

The Committee is not required to file a final report.

Meeting minutes for the Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

WITNESS LIST

Karen Burkhardt, American Driving Academy  
Lt. Mark Carnell, Indiana State Police  
Sherry Deane, AAA  
Dave Garrison, IVY Tech Community College of Indiana  
Ryan Klitzsch, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
Elizabeth Murphy, Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles  
Shawn Walters, Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles