

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: S1/29/15

A Bill

SENATE BILL 49

5 By: Senators Irvin, G. Stubblefield, Collins-Smith, B. Johnson, Flippo, D. Sanders
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 *AN ACT TO REGULATE DRIVER LICENSING; TO IMPROVE*
9 *DRIVER'S LICENSING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES; AND FOR*
10 *OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

11
12
13
14 *TO REGULATE DRIVER LICENSING; AND TO*
15 *IMPROVE DRIVER'S LICENSING PRACTICES AND*
16 *PROCEDURES.*

17
18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-16-604(a)(11), concerning the
22 requirement that a person between sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) years of age
23 first obtain a restricted driver's license before being eligible to obtain a
24 driver's license, is repealed.

25 ~~(11) Who is a noncommercial driver between sixteen (16) and~~
26 ~~eighteen (18) years of age who has not possessed a restricted license for at~~
27 ~~least six (6) months;~~

28
29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-16-704(c)(1), concerning the requirement
30 that an applicant for an original driver's license possess a valid
31 instruction permit properly issued not less than thirty (30) days before the
32 date of application, is amended to read as follows:

33 (c)(1) ~~No~~ An applicant for an original license, ~~that is, an applicant~~
34 who is under sixteen (16) years of age and who has never been licensed
35 previously by any jurisdiction, shall not be permitted to demonstrate ability
36 to operate a motor vehicle as required under the provisions of this chapter



1 unless ~~and until~~ the applicant has in his or her possession a valid
2 instruction permit properly issued not less than thirty (30) days ~~prior to~~
3 before the date of application, unless otherwise determined by the office.
4

5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-16-802(a)(1) and (2), concerning the
6 issuance of instruction permits, are amended to read as follows:

7 (a)(1) Any person who is at least fourteen (14) years of age may apply
8 to the ~~Office of Driver Services~~ Department of Arkansas State Police for an
9 instruction permit.

10 (2) After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the
11 examination other than the driving test, the ~~office~~ department ~~may~~, in its
12 discretion, may issue to the applicant an instruction permit ~~which~~ that shall
13 entitle the applicant while having the permit in his or her immediate
14 possession to drive a motor vehicle upon the public highways for a period of
15 six (6) months when accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least twenty-
16 one (21) years of age and who is occupying a seat beside the driver, except
17 in the event that the permittee is operating a motorcycle.
18

19 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-16-802(b)(1), concerning the issuance of
20 instruction permits, is amended to read as follows:

21 (b)(1) The ~~office~~ department, upon receiving proper application ~~may~~, in
22 its discretion, may issue a restricted instruction permit effective for a
23 school year or a more restricted permit to an applicant who is enrolled in a
24 driver education program ~~which~~ that includes practice driving and ~~which~~ that
25 is approved by the office even though the applicant has not reached the legal
26 age to be eligible for a noncommercial license.
27

28 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 27-16-804(b)(2)(B)(i), concerning
29 restrictions upon the driving privileges of persons under eighteen (18) years
30 of age, is amended to read as follows:

31 (B)(i) A license shall be issued only to an applicant ~~with~~
32 ~~a valid instruction permit or learner's license~~ who:

- 33 (a) Is at least fourteen (14) years of age; and
34 (b) Has remained free of a serious accident and
35 conviction of a serious traffic violation for at least the previous six (6)
36 months.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 27-16-804(g)(1)(B), concerning the issuance of an intermediate driver's license to persons under eighteen (18) years of age, is amended to read as follows:

(B) The intermediate driver's license shall be issued only to an applicant ~~with a valid instruction permit or a learner's license~~ who is at least sixteen (16) years of age, who has remained free of a serious accident and conviction of a serious traffic violation for at least the previous six (6) months, and who meets all other licensing examination requirements of this chapter.

/s/ Irvin