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SECRETARY OF STATE

I AM YOUR SAMARITAN ACT
The 'Saving More Lives' Initiative

1 AN ACT Relating to driver's license and permit requirements, under
2 instruction permit; amending RCW 46.20.055; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) During these difficult times involving
5 terrorism and various acts of inhumanity, we must unite and rise above
6 the negativity and impose our love upon one another. Let the world
7 know there is a higher power within us. So we must dig a little deeper
8 to find the well with the good water that will nurture our next
9 generation of Samaritans for a better tomorrow. We must identify the
10 deficiencies within our society, and improve upon them, and begin by
11 asking ourselves the fundamental question: What is the greatest gift
12 we can give another human being? Therefore, we, the people of the
13 state of Washington, shall make it our responsibility, by imposing an
14 act of love and kindness that will strengthen our new generation of
15 teenagers and young adults for a better quality of life for all those
16 they touch. Some might call it "tough love" but, all those seeking to
17 obtain a driver's permit, shall be required to complete a course in
18 cardiopulmonary resuscitation including automated external
19 defibrillator and first aid as approved by the American Heart

1 Association or the American Red Cross, or recognized equivalent per the
2 Washington Administrative Code, prior to the issuance of a driver's
3 instruction permit.

4 (2) Our state's population of new and inexperienced drivers is
5 primarily composed of teenagers and young adults. Statistically, this
6 age group is responsible for more vehicular-related accidents and
7 claims more lives while operating a vehicle than any other population
8 in this state. So how deep is the well that holds the water for this
9 cure? If we can imagine that attitude and maturity go hand in hand with
10 how a young mind may perceive themselves and others, we may have tapped
11 an invaluable source of water to improve our future. In the vast
12 science of behavioral modification, there must be an undeniable
13 consensus that people perform better when they feel better about
14 themselves and possess the skill set to accomplish what they set out to
15 do. This effective age group is conceivably an optimal time to shape
16 and cultivate their attitudes towards one another as they approach
17 adulthood, to help them learn, adopt, and incorporate helping skills
18 and behaviors which could play an important role in shaping their
19 character. Learning lifesaving skills will positively impact even
20 their own coping mechanisms during time-dependent emergencies including
21 those situations not so life-threatening. Inspire this group of
22 youngsters to help others as they improve their own self-perception and
23 self-esteem. They instantly become greater assets to their friends and
24 family. And since they feel valuable to those around them, and possess
25 the skills to answer the call, they are more likely to help a perfect
26 stranger. People have a tendency to panic when they don't know what to
27 do, especially, in a situation involving an emergency medical crisis.
28 Studies indicate that people oftentimes ignore others that need
29 emergency care simply because they don't know how to help. The
30 required course will provide the exposure, the basic education,
31 coordination, various techniques, and required practice and
32 demonstration of the helping skills from each participant. The
33 knowledge and the skills designed to inspire one to respond decisively
34 without hesitation, instead of doing nothing, or fleeing from the
35 scene.

36 (3) This measure would give Washington state national attention as
37 the first state of the union to adopt a measure of this kind; the kind
38 of measure that promotes the spirit of goodness and kindness towards

1 their fellow man. Secondary and tertiary benefits behind the topic of
2 bringing care and compassion to our population of youth and young
3 adults will spread into the classrooms of our schools, and onto the
4 dinner tables of American families for discussion, perpetuating a level
5 of awareness, which would be difficult to ignore. Often youngsters
6 don't know that they are good at something until we've made them do it.
7 And when they realize that they are good at it they may choose to
8 become a doctor, a nurse, or some other noble professional because of
9 it. Or simply gain the confidence as a trained and able Samaritan
10 within any profession they choose to do, and make it a noble one
11 because of who they've become. We can all look forward to a day when
12 a majority of our population in our society is prepared to prevent
13 premature death among the sick and injured, or at minimum, improve a
14 person's viability for full recovery until advanced emergency care
15 professionals resume care. The intrinsic tax revenues can be
16 calculated on the basis of sixty-five dollars per participant, which is
17 a typical cost for the course through a local fire department in the
18 state of Washington. It is anticipated that the annual number of
19 applications for the driver's instruction permit will not be affected
20 when considering the targeted age group's desire and motivation. Their
21 desire and motivation to seek their independence and get behind the
22 wheel of a vehicle will far exceed the inconvenience of learning how to
23 save someone's life, including their own, in time of need. And
24 finally, imagine how many taxpayer dollars are saved each year with
25 each life saved? Going one step further, each life saved before any
26 irreversible brain damage has occurred? Medical expenses can reach
27 exorbitant levels to retrain someone how to write or walk again as a
28 result of oxygen and glucose deprivation to the brain beyond the four
29 minute window of relative safety. This can be prevented by early
30 intervention as learned in the course which this act will require in
31 order to obtain a driver's permit. The remarkable savings in health
32 care rehabilitation is another area of dramatic financial savings and
33 triumph. Categorically, the end result is a win, win, and win for
34 everyone!

35 (4) The myriad of benefits waiting to stream from this act is based
36 on adding a simple requirement on the path of obtaining a driver's
37 instruction permit. Not so complicated. It also connects our
38 students, our schools, our neighborhoods, and communities in touch with

1 our professional Samaritans, establishing another venue to promote the
2 relationship piece between citizen and their local fire departments,
3 law enforcement, both public and private sector ambulance teams, as
4 well as other facilities and educators who provide such education.
5 Keeping people within communities connected. While there are other
6 mechanisms or incentives by which lawmakers may exercise to increase
7 our population of trained initial responders across all socioeconomic
8 stratifications, one obvious and notable observation over the decades
9 by the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross, is that
10 if a person is not required to attend cardiopulmonary resuscitation and
11 first aid classes they don't take the initiative to enroll on their own
12 persuasion. If they did, this initiative would not exist. Citizens
13 who have the skills, whose occupations require certification, training,
14 or proof of attendance and participation in cardiopulmonary
15 resuscitation and first aid instruction, comprise just a small segment
16 of the general population. The trend is self-evident, apparent, and
17 tried over the years. The determinant factor is by incentive,
18 prerequisite, or requirement. The adoption of this act is therefore
19 justified.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.055 and 2006 c 219 s 14 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 (1) **Driver's instruction permit.** The department may issue a
23 driver's instruction permit with or without a photograph to an
24 applicant who has successfully passed all parts of the examination
25 other than the driving test((~~7~~)); provided the information required by
26 RCW 46.20.091((~~7~~)); submitted verification of completion of a
27 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid course, including use of an
28 automated external defibrillator, approved by the American Heart
29 Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent program approved by the
30 department; paid a fee of twenty dollars((~~7~~)); and meets the following
31 requirements:

32 (a) Is at least fifteen and one-half years of age; or

33 (b) Is at least fifteen years of age and:

34 (i) Has submitted a proper application; and

35 (ii) Is enrolled in a traffic safety education program offered,
36 approved, and accredited by the superintendent of public instruction or

1 offered by a driver training school licensed and inspected by the
2 department of licensing under chapter 46.82 RCW, that includes practice
3 driving.

4 (2) **Waiver of written examination for instruction permit.** The
5 department may waive the written examination, if, at the time of
6 application, an applicant is enrolled in:

7 (a) A traffic safety education course as defined by RCW
8 28A.220.020(2); or

9 (b) A course of instruction offered by a licensed driver training
10 school as defined by RCW 46.82.280(4).

11 The department may require proof of registration in such a course
12 as it deems necessary.

13 (3) **Effect of instruction permit.** A person holding a driver's
14 instruction permit may drive a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle,
15 upon the public highways if:

16 (a) The person has immediate possession of the permit; and

17 (b) An approved instructor, or a licensed driver with at least five
18 years of driving experience, occupies the seat beside the driver.

19 (4) **Term of instruction permit.** A driver's instruction permit is
20 valid for one year from the date of issue.

21 (a) The department may issue one additional one-year permit.

22 (b) The department may issue a third driver's permit if it finds
23 after an investigation that the permittee is diligently seeking to
24 improve driving proficiency.

25 (c) A person applying to renew an instruction permit must submit
26 the application to the department in person.

27 **NEW SECTION.** Sec. 3. The provisions of this act are to be
28 liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of
29 this act.

30 **NEW SECTION.** Sec. 4. If any provision of this act or its
31 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
32 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
33 persons or circumstances is not affected.

34 **NEW SECTION.** Sec. 5. This Saving More Lives initiative shall be
35 known and cited as the "I am your Samaritan act." The name of this act

1 is an integral part of the message and mission of this initiative. It
2 exhumes the higher power within us. It inspires people, as a group,
3 and even goes all the way down to the intimate level of an individual
4 as a sole rescuer, to answer the call of the hour. Whether it's close
5 to home or far away, it sees no boundaries. The name of this act
6 signifies the presence of the Samaritan within every person that is
7 prepared to answer the call. The call to give the greatest gift that
8 one can give to another human being, life. Our generation of citizens
9 has the obligation to respond as Samaritans to promote changes to
10 improve the human condition for the sake of humanity. This is a
11 nonpartisan effort to significantly improve the health and well-being
12 of all of our citizens within this state, ultimately our nation, and
13 the world over. It has to start somewhere and the somewhere is here.
14 Now is the time to unite and rise above ourselves and impose our love
15 upon one another. We have found the well with the good water.
16 Everyone is encouraged to register and vote for the message and mission
17 contained in this act which will effectively increase the number of
18 trained initial responders each year, year after year, within our
19 dearly beloved state, while transforming our population of teenagers
20 and young adults for the better!

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Summary close: This measure concerns saving
22 lives and improving our quality of life through education, for the
23 prevention of premature death among the sick and injured. It will
24 empower and create a new healthy population of teenagers, year after
25 year, as they seek to share the responsibilities of our roadways, by
26 mandating cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automated external
27 defibrillator, and first aid classes as a requirement to obtaining
28 their driver's permits. This population group is responsible for the
29 highest rate of vehicular accidents, and they deserve to understand the
30 value of human life and to know what to do for someone if something
31 happens. This measure will effectively produce so many wonderful
32 things, part of which can be discovered by reading the sample
33 resolution below.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. WHEREAS, A new generation of teenagers and
35 young adults should place the highest value on life and become better

1 prepared to respond effectively to medical emergencies while sharing
2 the responsibilities of our roadways; and

3 WHEREAS, Everyone who has been granted a driver's permit will
4 return home to their families as a greater asset in their abode,
5 trained and prepared to respond effectively in the event of a medical
6 emergency, including responding to the needs of their parents,
7 guardians, friends, neighbors, and extended family; and

8 WHEREAS, All those who complete the new version of the
9 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automated external defibrillator, and
10 first aid course will understand that chest compressions alone are
11 effective and overcome the fear of contracting any virus or disease, as
12 with giving breaths without the proper barrier protection devices while
13 giving care to an unknown person, and, further, they will understand
14 the protections in place while care is rendered as provided by the good
15 Samaritan laws; and

16 WHEREAS, Through this required education comes the confidence to
17 render a greater level of effective therapeutic care, creating a higher
18 percentage of lives saved, both on and off our roadways, and, further,
19 as the number of trained responders increases every year, so will the
20 number of lives saved; and

21 WHEREAS, Honoring the call saves more lives;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The state of Washington will be the
23 first state in the union to inspire all other states to enact, "I Am
24 Your Samaritan Act," in the spirit of Saving More Lives; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the voting citizens of our state, join
26 with other Washingtonians in Saving More Lives by endorsing, "I Am Your
27 Samaritan Act," this initiative to the people to promote life and to
28 realize all efforts in the prevention of premature death and for the
29 preservation of life; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution is sent to all
31 Washington State legislators, Governor Christine Gregoire, leading
32 media outlets in Washington State, and all the Washington State elected
33 officials in Washington, D.C.

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