

Chapter 298

(Senate Bill 471)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Motor Vehicle Administration – 3–Hour Roadway Safety Driving Education Program – Requirements

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to establish a 3-hour Roadway Safety Driving Education Program~~ altering the requirements of the 3-hour Roadway Safety Driving Education Program established by the Motor Vehicle Administration for certain applicants for ~~and holders of~~ driver’s licenses; and generally relating to the 3-hour Roadway Safety Driving Education Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 16–105(f), ~~16–212~~, and 16–212.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

16–105.

(f) (1) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the Administration may issue a driver’s license, without first issuing a learner’s instructional permit and without a waiting period, to any individual who:

(i) Has been licensed regularly to drive in this State, in another state or country, or by the armed forces of the United States, if the Administration is satisfied that the applicant’s experience in driving vehicles of the type that would be authorized by the license class applied for is sufficient to justify issuance of the license without further training; or

(ii) Has successfully completed the Administration approved basic motorcycle safety course.

(2) The Administration may:

(i) Examine the applicant’s driving as provided in § 16–110 of this subtitle; or

(ii) Issue a provisional license, if appropriate, under § 16–111(e) of this subtitle.

(3) An individual who never held a driver's license issued by the Administration or by another state, but who otherwise may obtain a license under paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection without first obtaining a learner's instructional permit, shall successfully complete a 3-hour ~~[alcohol and drug education program]~~ **ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM** established by the Administration under § 16–212.1 of this title before qualifying for a driver's license.

~~16–212.~~

~~(a) The Administration may conduct:~~

~~(1) A driver improvement program, including a driver improvement program designed specifically for young drivers; and~~

~~(2) [An alcohol education program] **THE 3 HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 16–212.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**~~

~~(b) (1) The purpose of the programs authorized under this section is to provide driver rehabilitation **AND EDUCATION.**~~

~~(2) The Administration shall determine the content of the programs.~~

~~(c) If an individual is convicted of one or more moving violations:~~

~~(1) Notwithstanding item (2) of this subsection, after a hearing as provided in Title 12, Subtitle 2 of this article, as a condition of reinstatement of a driver's license, the Administration may require an individual to attend a driver improvement program or [alcohol education program] **THE 3 HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM;** or~~

~~(2) A court may require an individual to attend a driver improvement program or [alcohol education program] **THE 3 HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM.**~~

~~(d) In carrying out an order of the court, a probation officer or health department officer may assign an individual to attend a driver improvement program or [alcohol education program] **THE 3 HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM.**~~

~~(e) (1) An individual who attends a program under this section shall pay, in advance, a fee as provided in this subsection.~~

~~(2) The Administration shall set a reasonable fee based on the costs of operating the programs authorized by this section.~~

~~(3) The funds collected by the Administration under this subsection may not be credited to the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account for distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of this article.~~

~~(f) (1) The Administration may waive attendance at [an alcohol education program] **THE 3-HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM** conducted by the Administration if an individual attends a private [alcohol education program or an alcohol education program] **ROADWAY SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM OR A ROADWAY SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM** provided by a political subdivision of the State that is approved by the Behavioral Health Administration and the Administration.~~

~~(2) The Administration may waive attendance at a driver improvement program conducted by the Administration if an individual attends a private driver improvement program or a driver improvement program provided by a political subdivision of the State that is approved by the Administration.~~

~~(3) The Administration shall establish criteria for approving private providers of [alcohol education] **ROADWAY SAFETY EDUCATION** or driver improvement programs provided by a political subdivision of the State.~~

~~(4) Upon application for approval to provide the programs allowed under this section, a private provider shall pay an application fee established by the Administration.~~

16-212.1.

(a) The Administration, in cooperation with the Behavioral Health Administration, shall establish [an alcohol and drug education program] **THE 3-HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM** to educate driver's license applicants who are subject to the provisions of § 16-105(f)(3) of this title. This program also shall be included as part of the driver education course established under Subtitle 5 of this title.

[(b) The program shall provide 3 hours of instruction in:

(1) The hazards of driving while impaired or intoxicated;

(2) The criminal penalties and administrative sanctions for alcohol and drug related motor vehicle violations;

(3) The medical, biological, and psychological effects of the consumption of alcohol and drugs and their impact on the operation of a motor vehicle; and

(4) Any other drug and alcohol related information that the Administration determines would be beneficial to applicants for a driver's license.

(c) The Administration shall adopt regulations establishing criteria for certifying a private entity to offer the alcohol and drug education program established under this section.]

(B) THE 3-HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON:

- (1) UNDERSTANDING SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS;**
- (2) DANGEROUS DRIVING BEHAVIORS;**
- (3) WORK ZONE SAFETY;**
- (4) THE HAZARDS OF DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED OR INTOXICATED;**
- (5) THE CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS FOR ALCOHOL- AND DRUG-RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS;**
- (6) THE MEDICAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE;**
- (7) THE MARYLAND DRIVING RECORD AND POINTS SYSTEMS; AND**
- (8) ANY OTHER ROADWAY SAFETY-RELATED INFORMATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO APPLICANTS FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE.**

(C) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR CERTIFYING A PRIVATE ENTITY TO OFFER THE 3-HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.