

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1958

**PRINTER NO.** 3504

**AMOUNT**

\$179,000 One-time Costs  
\$99,870 Annual Recurring Costs

**FUND**

Motor License Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

October 6, 2021

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Hennessey

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1958 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Department of Transportation (department) to implement a “driver improvement school” and allow for a person’s option to complete a driver improvement school or a special examination upon the first accumulation of six points on a driving record and to require the completion of a driver improvement school upon a second and subsequent accumulation of six points.

“Driver improvement school” is defined as a program for educating drivers through a department-developed or approved curriculum that may be presented either by the department or by a third party approved by the department under § 1549 (relating to establishment of schools).

Upon satisfactory attendance and completion of the driver improvement school course or upon passing the special examination, the department shall:

- 1) Remove two points from the person’s record if the person elected to take the special examination; or
- 2) Remove four points from the person’s record if the person elected to attend a driver improvement school and completed the school’s requirements.

Failure to complete one of the requirements above shall result in the suspension of the person’s operating privilege until:

- 1) The person attends and satisfactorily completes the requirements of a driver improvement school; or
- 2) The examination has been satisfactorily completed.

This legislation mandates the individual to attend a departmental hearing and a driver improvement school upon a upon a second and subsequent accumulation of six points.

The individual’s operating privilege shall be suspended for:

- 1) A period not exceeding 15 days if their record for a second time shows an accumulation of six or more points; or

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

- 2) A period not exceeding 30 days if their record for a third or subsequent time shows an accumulation of six or more points.

House Bill 1958 also requires an individual to attend a departmental hearing and attend a driver improvement school upon conviction for excessive speeding (driving 31 miles per hour or more in excess of the speed limit).

Section 1543 (relating to driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked) is amended to require the department to suspend an individual's operating privilege for an additional 30-day period for not completing the driver improvement school.

Section 1549 (relating to establishment of schools) is amended to allow the department to authorize a third party to operate a driver improvement school as follows:

- 1) The third party may include, but not be limited to:
  - i. A nationally recognized nonprofit or not-for-profit organization that provides driver education services; or
  - ii. A private driving school in the Commonwealth;
- 2) The third party shall offer classroom instruction, online instruction or a combination of both;
- 3) The department shall establish a minimum curriculum that is designed to create behavioral change in the driver;
- 4) The department shall establish minimum instruction hours, which shall be no less than four hours and no more than eight hours and shall be consistent among all authorized third-party providers;
- 5) A third party approved by the department may be authorized to administer an end-of-course examination, provided that the examination is the same examination administered by the department;
- 6) A third party may only operate a driver improvement school if the third party has entered into an agreement with the department and the agreement is in effect; and
- 7) The department may, at its discretion, impose additional requirements for a third party.

This act shall take effect in 14 months.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

According to the Department of Transportation, enactment of this legislation will result in one-time costs of an estimated \$179,000 for information system revisions and annual personnel costs of \$99,870 for one new position for processing of forms and driver's records of individuals completing the driver improvement school.