

**Minor Driving Hours Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper**

House Sponsor: Jill Koford

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**LONG TITLE****Committee Note:**

The Transportation Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 13 voting for 0 voting against 5 absent

**General Description:**

This bill clarifies who can supervise a minor with a learner permit while operating a vehicle.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- clarifies that a stepparent or foster parent can supervise a minor with a learner permit; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53-3-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 262**53-3-210.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 242

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*Section 1. Section **53-3-204** is amended to read:**53-3-204 . Persons who may not be licensed.**

(1)(a) The division may not license a person who:

- (i) is younger than 16 years old;
- (ii) if the person is 18 years old or younger, has not completed a course in driver training approved by the commissioner;
- (iii) if the person is 19 years old or older has not completed:

- 31 (A) a course in driver training approved by the commissioner; or  
32 (B) the requirements~~[-under]~~ described in Subsection~~[-53-3-210.5(6)(e)]~~  
33 53-3-210.5(7)(c);
- 34 (iv) if the person is a minor as defined in Section 53-3-211, has not completed the  
35 driving requirement~~[-under]~~ described in Section 53-3-211;
- 36 (v) is not a resident of the state, unless the person:  
37 (A) is issued a temporary CDL under Subsection 53-3-407(2)(b)~~[-prior to]~~ before  
38 July 1, 2015; or  
39 (B) qualifies for a non~~[-]~~ domiciled CDL as defined in 49 C.F.R. Part 383;
- 40 (vi) if the person is 17 years old or younger, has not held a learner permit issued  
41 under Section 53-3-210.5 or an equivalent by another state or branch of the United  
42 States Armed Forces for six months; or
- 43 (vii) is younger than 18 years old and applying for a CDL under 49 C.F.R. Part 383.
- 44 (b) Subsections (1)(a)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vi) do not apply to ~~[a person]~~ an individual:  
45 (i) who has been licensed before July 1, 1967; or  
46 (ii) ~~[who is]~~ 16 years old or older~~[-making application]~~ applying for a license who has  
47 been licensed in another state or country.
- 48 (2) The division may not issue a license certificate to~~[-a person]~~ an individual:  
49 (a) whose license has been suspended, denied, cancelled, or disqualified during the  
50 period of suspension, denial, cancellation, or disqualification;
- 51 (b) whose privilege has been revoked, except as provided in Section 53-3-225;
- 52 (c) who has previously been adjudged mentally incompetent and who has not at the time  
53 of application been restored to competency as provided by law;
- 54 (d) who is required~~[-by]~~ under this chapter to take an examination unless the~~[-person]~~  
55 individual successfully passes the examination;
- 56 (e) whose driving privileges~~[-have been]~~ are denied or suspended under:  
57 (i) Section 80-6-707 by an order of the juvenile court; or  
58 (ii) Section 53-3-231; or
- 59 (f) beginning on or after July 1, 2012, who holds an unexpired Utah identification card  
60 issued under Part 8, Identification Card Act, unless:  
61 (i) the Utah identification card is canceled; and  
62 (ii) if the Utah identification card is in the person's possession, the Utah identification  
63 card is surrendered to the division.
- 64 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection~~[-(3)(e)]~~ (3)(b) or (c), the division may not grant

a motorcycle endorsement to~~[-a person-]~~ an individual who:

(i) ~~[has not been granted-]~~ does not hold an original or provisional class D license, a CDL, or an out-of-state equivalent to an original or provisional class D license or a CDL;~~[-and]~~ or

(ii) if the~~[-person-]~~ individual is under 19 years old, has not held a motorcycle learner permit for two months~~[-unless Subsection (3)(b) applies]~~.

(b) The division may waive the two~~[-]~~ -month motorcycle learner permit holding period requirement~~[-under]~~ described in Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the~~[-person-]~~ individual proves to the satisfaction of the division that the~~[-person-]~~ individual has completed a motorcycle rider education program that meets the requirements~~[-under]~~ described in Section 53-3-903.

(c) The division may grant a motorcycle endorsement to~~[-a person-]~~ an individual under 19 years old who has not held a motorcycle learner permit for two months if the~~[-person-]~~ individual was issued a motorcycle endorsement~~[-prior to]~~ before July 1, 2008.

(4) The division may grant a class D license to~~[-a person-]~~ an individual whose commercial license is disqualified under Part 4, Uniform Commercial Driver License Act, if the person is not otherwise sanctioned under this chapter.

Section 2. Section **53-3-210.5** is amended to read:

**53-3-210.5 . Learner permit.**

(1) As used in this section, "parent" means an individual's parent, stepparent, or foster parent.

(2) The division, upon receiving an application for a learner permit, may issue a learner permit effective for 18 months to an applicant who is at least 15 years old.

~~[(2)]~~ (3)(a) The learner permit entitles an applicant that is 18 years old or older to operate a class D motor vehicle only if~~[-a person-]~~ an individual 21 years old or older who is a licensed driver is occupying a seat beside the applicant.

(b) The learner permit entitles an applicant that is younger than 18 years old to operate a class D motor vehicle only if:

(i) an approved driving instructor is occupying a seat beside the applicant;

(ii) the applicant's parent or legal guardian, who~~[-must be-]~~ is a licensed driver, is occupying a seat beside the applicant;

(iii) a responsible adult who has signed for the applicant under Section 53-3-211 and who~~[-must be-]~~ is a licensed driver, is occupying a seat beside the applicant; or

- 99 (iv)(A) a responsible individual 21 years old or older who is not the parent or legal  
100 guardian is occupying a seat beside the applicant; ~~[and:]~~  
101 ~~[(A)] (B)~~ the applicant's parent or legal guardian is not a licensed driver; and  
102 ~~[(B)] (C)~~ the individual~~[-occupying the seat beside the applicant-]~~ described in  
103 Subsection (3)(b)(iv)(A) is a licensed driver and has in the individual's  
104 immediate possession evidence that the individual is authorized by the  
105 applicant's parent or legal guardian to accompany the applicant while operating  
106 the motor vehicle[; and] .  
107 ~~[(C) the individual occupying the seat beside the applicant is a licensed driver.]~~  
108 (c) The applicant shall have the learner permit in the applicant's immediate possession  
109 while operating the motor vehicle.  
110 ~~[(3)] (4)~~ The division shall issue a learner permit to an applicant who:  
111 (a) is at least 15 years old;  
112 (b) has passed the knowledge test required by the division;  
113 (c) has passed the physical and mental fitness tests; and  
114 (d) has submitted a nonrefundable fee for a learner permit~~[-under]~~ described in Section  
115 53-3-105.  
116 ~~[(4)] (5)(a)~~ The division shall supply the learner permit form.  
117 (b) The form~~[-under]~~ described in Subsection~~[-(4)(a)-]~~ (5)(a) shall include:  
118 (i) the applicant's full name, date of birth, sex, Utah residence address, height, weight,  
119 and eye color;  
120 (ii) the date of issuance and expiration of the permit; and  
121 (iii) the conditions and restrictions~~[-contained]~~ described in this section for operating  
122 a class D motor vehicle.  
123 ~~[(5)] (6)~~ An application and fee for a learner permit entitle the applicant to:  
124 (a) not more than three attempts to pass the knowledge test for a class D license within  
125 one year; and  
126 (b) a learner permit after~~[-the knowledge test is passed]~~ passing the knowledge test.  
127 ~~[(6)] (7)(a)~~ If an applicant has been issued a learner permit under this section or an  
128 equivalent by another state or branch of the United States Armed Forces, the  
129 applicant may be issued an original or provisional class D license from the division  
130 upon:  
131 (i) except as provided in Subsection (7)(c), completing a driver education course in[-a]:  
132 (A) a commercial driver training school licensed under Part 5, Commercial Driver

- 133 Training Schools Act; or
- 134 (B) a driver education program approved by the State Board of Education or the
- 135 division;
- 136 (ii) passing a knowledge test approved by the division that complies with~~[-the~~
- 137 ~~requirement of-]~~ Subsection[-(6)(d)] (7)(d);
- 138 (iii) passing the skills test approved by the division;
- 139 (iv) reaching 16 years old; and
- 140 (v) paying the nonrefundable fee for an original or provisional class D license
- 141 application[-under] described in Section 53-3-105.
- 142 (b) In addition to the requirements~~[-under]~~ described in Subsection[-(6)(a)] (7)(a), an
- 143 applicant who is 17 years old or younger[-is required to-] shall hold a learner permit
- 144 for six months before applying for a provisional class D license.
- 145 (c) An applicant is exempt from the requirement~~[-under]~~ described in Subsection[
- 146 ~~(6)(a)(i)] (7)(a)(i) if the applicant:~~
- 147 (i) is 19 years old or older;
- 148 (ii) holds a learner permit for three months before applying for an original class D
- 149 license; and
- 150 (iii) certifies that the applicant, under the authority of a permit issued under this
- 151 chapter, has completed at least 40 hours of driving a motor vehicle, of which at
- 152 least 10 hours were completed during night hours after sunset.
- 153 (d) Fifty percent of the test questions included in the knowledge test required under
- 154 Subsection[-(6)(a)(ii)] (7)(a)(ii) shall cover the topic of major causes of traffic
- 155 related deaths as identified in statistics published by the Highway Safety Office.

156 **Section 3. Effective Date.**

157 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.