

DRIVER EDUCATION MODIFICATIONS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ariel Defay

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill makes changes to the way a local education agency may fund driver education classes.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- allows for additional funding to be used by a local education agency to fund driver education classes; and
- increases driver education student reimbursement amounts.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-10-503, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 247

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53G-10-503** is amended to read:

53G-10-503 . Driver education funding -- Reimbursement of a local education agency for driver education class expenses -- Limitations -- Excess funds -- Student fees.

(1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), a local education agency that provides driver education shall fund the program[~~solely~~] through:

- (i) funds provided from the Automobile Driver Education Tax Account in the Uniform School Fund as created under Section 41-1a-1205; and
- (ii) student fees collected by each school.

- (b) In determining the cost of driver education, a local education agency may exclude:
- (i) the full-time equivalent cost of a teacher for a driver education class taught during regular school hours; and
 - (ii) classroom space and classroom maintenance.
- (c) A local education agency may~~not~~ use~~any~~ additional school funds beyond those allowed under Subsection (1)(b) to subsidize driver education.
- (2) (a) The state superintendent shall, prior to September 2nd following the school year during which it was expended, or may at earlier intervals during that school year, reimburse each local education agency that applied for reimbursement in accordance with this section.
- (b) A local education agency that maintains driver education classes that conform to this part and the rules prescribed by the state board may apply for reimbursement for the actual cost of providing the behind-the-wheel and observation training incidental to those classes.
- (3) Under the state board's supervision for driver education, a local education agency may:
- (a) employ personnel who are not licensed by the state board under Section 53E-6-201; or
 - (b) contract with private parties or agencies licensed under Section 53-3-504 for the behind-the-wheel phase of the driver education program.
- (4) The reimbursement amount shall be paid out of the Automobile Driver Education Tax Account in the Uniform School Fund and may not exceed:
- (a) ~~[\$100]~~ \$150 per student who has completed driver education during the school year;
 - (b) ~~[\$30]~~ \$45 per student who has only completed the classroom portion in the school during the school year; or
 - (c) ~~[\$70]~~ \$105 per student who has only completed the behind-the-wheel and observation portion in the school during the school year.
- (5) If the amount of money in the account at the end of a school year is less than the total of the reimbursable costs, the state superintendent shall allocate the money to each local education agency in the same proportion that the local education agency's reimbursable costs bear to the total reimbursable costs of all local education agencies.
- (6) If the amount of money in the account at the end of any school year is more than the total of the reimbursement costs provided under Subsection (4), the state superintendent may allocate the excess funds to local education agencies:
- (a) to reimburse each local education agency that applies for reimbursement of the cost

63 of a fee waived under Section 53G-7-504 for driver education; and
64 (b) to aid in the procurement of equipment and facilities which reduce the cost of
65 behind-the-wheel instruction.

66 (7) A local school board shall establish the student fee for driver education for the local
67 education agency. Student fees shall be reasonably associated with the costs of driver
68 education that are not otherwise covered by reimbursements and allocations made under
69 this section.

70 Section 2. **Effective date.**

71 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.