

Senate Engrossed House Bill

driver license instruction permit; age

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE BILL 2003

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 28-3153, 28-3154, 28-3156 AND 28-3174, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO DRIVER LICENSE INSTRUCTION PERMITS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 28-3153, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 28-3153. Driver license issuance; prohibitions

5 A. The department shall not issue the following:

6 1. A driver license to a person who is under eighteen years of age,
7 except that the department may issue:

8 (a) A restricted instruction permit for a class D or G license to a
9 person who is at least fifteen years of age.

10 (b) An instruction permit for a class D, G or M license as provided
11 by this chapter to a person who is at least fifteen years ~~and six months~~
12 of age.

13 (c) A class G or M license as provided by this chapter to a person
14 who is at least sixteen years of age.

15 2. A class D, G or M license or instruction permit to a person who
16 is under eighteen years of age and who has been tried in adult court and
17 convicted of a second or subsequent violation of criminal damage to
18 property pursuant to section 13-1602, subsection A, paragraph 1 or
19 convicted of a felony offense in the commission of which a motor vehicle
20 is used, including theft of a motor vehicle pursuant to section 13-1802,
21 unlawful use of means of transportation pursuant to section 13-1803 or
22 theft of means of transportation pursuant to section 13-1814, or who has
23 been adjudicated delinquent for a second or subsequent act that would
24 constitute criminal damage to property pursuant to section 13-1602,
25 subsection A, paragraph 1 or adjudicated delinquent for an act that would
26 constitute a felony offense in the commission of which a motor vehicle is
27 used, including theft of a motor vehicle pursuant to section 13-1802,
28 unlawful use of means of transportation pursuant to section 13-1803 or
29 theft of means of transportation pursuant to section 13-1814, if committed
30 by an adult.

31 3. A class A, B or C license to a person who is under twenty-one
32 years of age, except that the department may issue a class A, B or C
33 license that is restricted to only intrastate driving to a person who is
34 at least eighteen years of age.

35 4. A license to a person whose license or driving privilege has
36 been suspended, during the suspension period.

37 5. Except as provided in section 28-3315, a license to a person
38 whose license or driving privilege has been revoked.

39 6. A class A, B or C license to a person who has been disqualified
40 from obtaining a commercial driver license.

41 7. A license to a person who on application notifies the department
42 that the person is an alcoholic as defined in section 36-2021 or a drug
43 dependent person as defined in section 36-2501, unless the person submits
44 a medical examination report that includes a current evaluation from an
45 addiction counselor indicating that, in the opinion of the counselor, the

1 condition does not affect or impair the person's ability to safely operate
2 a motor vehicle.

3 8. A license to a person who has been adjudged to be incapacitated
4 pursuant to section 14-5304 and who at the time of application has not
5 obtained either a court order that allows the person to drive or a
6 termination of incapacity as provided by law.

7 9. A license to a person who is required by this chapter to take an
8 examination unless the person successfully passes the examination.

9 10. A license to a person who is required under the motor vehicle
10 financial responsibility laws of this state to deposit proof of financial
11 responsibility and who has not deposited the proof.

12 11. A license to a person if the department has good cause to
13 believe that the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways by the
14 person would threaten the public safety or welfare.

15 12. A license to a person whose driver license has been ordered to
16 be suspended for failure to pay child support, except that a noncommercial
17 restricted license may be issued pursuant to section 25-518.

18 13. A class A, B or C license to a person whose license or driving
19 privilege has been canceled until the cause for the cancellation has been
20 removed.

21 14. A class A, B or C license or instruction permit to a person
22 whose state of domicile is not this state.

23 15. A class A, B or C license to a person who fails to demonstrate
24 proficiency in the English language as determined by the department.

25 B. The department shall not issue a driver license to or renew the
26 driver license of the following persons:

27 1. A person about whom the court notifies the department that the
28 person violated the person's written promise to appear in court when
29 charged with a violation of the motor vehicle laws of this state until the
30 department receives notification in a manner approved by the department
31 that the person appeared either voluntarily or involuntarily or that the
32 case has been adjudicated, that the case is being appealed or that the
33 case has otherwise been disposed of as provided by law.

34 2. If notified pursuant to section 28-1601, a person who fails to
35 pay a civil penalty as provided in section 28-1601, except for a parking
36 violation, until the department receives notification in a manner approved
37 by the department that the person paid the civil penalty, that the case is
38 being appealed or that the case has otherwise been disposed of as provided
39 by law.

40 C. The magistrate or the clerk of the court shall provide the
41 notification to the department prescribed by subsection B of this section.

42 D. Notwithstanding any other law, the department shall not issue to
43 or renew a driver license or nonoperating identification license for a
44 person who does not submit proof satisfactory to the department that the
45 applicant's presence in the United States is authorized under federal law.

1 For an application for a driver license or a nonoperating identification
2 license, the department shall not accept as a primary source of
3 identification a driver license issued by a state if the state does not
4 require that a driver licensed in that state be lawfully present in the
5 United States under federal law. The director shall adopt rules necessary
6 to carry out the purposes of this subsection. The rules shall include
7 procedures for:

8 1. Verification that the applicant's presence in the United States
9 is authorized under federal law.

10 2. Issuance of a temporary driver permit pursuant to section
11 28-3157 pending verification of the applicant's status in the United
12 States.

13 Sec. 2. Section 28-3154, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
14 read:

15 28-3154. Instruction permit for a class D or G license

16 A. A person who is at least fifteen years ~~and six months~~ of age may
17 apply to the department for an instruction permit for a class D or G
18 license. The department may issue an instruction permit to the applicant
19 after the applicant successfully passes all parts of the examination other
20 than the driving test.

21 B. The instruction permit entitles the permittee to drive a motor
22 vehicle requiring a class D or G license on the public highways for ~~twelve~~
23 **EIGHTEEN** months when both of the following conditions are met:

24 1. The permittee has the permit in the permittee's immediate
25 possession.

26 2. The permittee is accompanied by a person who has a class A, B, C
27 or D license, who is at least twenty-one years of age and who occupies a
28 seat beside the permittee.

29 C. A permittee may not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless
30 communication device for any reason except during an emergency in which
31 stopping the motor vehicle is impossible or will create an additional
32 emergency or safety hazard. A peace officer may not stop or issue a
33 citation to a person operating a motor vehicle on a highway in this state
34 for a violation of this subsection unless the peace officer has reasonable
35 cause to believe there is another alleged violation of a motor vehicle law
36 of this state.

37 Sec. 3. Section 28-3156, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
38 read:

39 28-3156. Class M instruction permit

40 A. A person who is at least fifteen years ~~and six months~~ of age may
41 apply to the department for an instruction permit for a class M
42 license. The department may issue an instruction permit to the applicant
43 after the applicant successfully passes all parts of the examination other
44 than the motorcycle skill test.

1 B. The permit entitles the permittee to operate a motorcycle
2 requiring a class M license or endorsement when the permittee has the
3 permit in the permittee's immediate possession. The permit is valid for
4 ~~seven~~ TWELVE months from the date of issuance.

5 C. The permittee shall not operate a motorcycle as follows:

6 1. On a controlled access highway as defined in section 28-601.

7 2. On a public highway from sunset to sunrise or when there is
8 insufficient light to clearly discern a person and a vehicle on the
9 highway at a distance of five hundred feet.

10 D. The department shall not issue more than two class M permits to
11 the same person within twenty-four months.

12 Sec. 4. Section 28-3174, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
13 read:

14 28-3174. Class G driver licenses; restrictions; civil
15 penalties; motorcycles

16 A. A person who is under eighteen years of age may apply to the
17 department for a class G driver license if all of the following apply:

18 1. The person is at least sixteen years of age.

19 2. The person has a valid instruction permit issued pursuant to
20 this article and the person has held the instruction permit for at least
21 ~~six~~ NINE months, except that this requirement does not apply to a person
22 who has a currently valid driver license issued by another jurisdiction.

23 3. Any of the following applies:

24 (a) The person has satisfactorily completed a driver education
25 program that is approved by the department of transportation. If the
26 driver education program is offered by a public high school, the program
27 shall be approved by the department of transportation in consultation with
28 the department of education.

29 (b) Both of the following apply:

30 (i) The person completes a driver education program that is offered
31 by a defensive driving school that is certified pursuant to section
32 28-3395 and that is approved by the supreme court or a traffic survival
33 school.

34 (ii) A custodial parent or guardian of the person certifies in
35 writing to the department that the applicant has completed at least twenty
36 hours of supervised driving practice and that at least six of the required
37 practice hours were at night.

38 (c) A custodial parent or guardian of the person certifies in
39 writing to the department that the applicant has completed at least ~~thirty~~
40 FIFTY hours of supervised driving practice and that at least ~~ten~~ TWENTY of
41 the required practice hours were at night.

42 B. If the applicant successfully passes the examination prescribed
43 in section 28-3164 and satisfies the requirements prescribed in subsection
44 A of this section, the department may issue a class G driver license to
45 the applicant.

1 C. Except as provided in subsection D of this section, a class G
2 driver license entitles the licensee to drive a motor vehicle that
3 requires a class G license on the public highways.

4 D. Except as provided in subsection K of this section, for the
5 first six months that a class G licensee holds the license, the licensee
6 shall not drive a motor vehicle on a public highway from 12:00 a.m. to
7 5:00 a.m. unless either:

8 1. The licensee is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who
9 has a class A, B, C or D license and who occupies a seat beside the class
10 G licensee.

11 2. The licensee is driving directly to or from a sanctioned school
12 sponsored activity, the licensee's place of employment, a sanctioned
13 religious activity or a family emergency.

14 E. Except as provided in this subsection and subsection K of this
15 section, for the first six months that a class G licensee holds the
16 license, the licensee shall not drive a motor vehicle on a public highway
17 at any time if the licensee is driving a motor vehicle containing more
18 than one passenger under the age of eighteen. This restriction does not:

19 1. Prohibit the licensee from driving a motor vehicle containing
20 passengers under the age of eighteen if the passengers are the licensee's
21 siblings.

22 2. Apply if the licensee is accompanied by a parent or legal
23 guardian who has a class A, B, C or D license and who occupies a seat
24 beside the class G licensee.

25 F. Except as provided in subsection K of this section, for the
26 first six months that a class G licensee holds the license, the licensee
27 may not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless communication device
28 for any reason except either:

29 1. During an emergency in which stopping the motor vehicle is
30 impossible or will create an additional emergency or safety hazard.

31 2. When using an audible turn-by-turn navigation system if both of
32 the following apply:

33 (a) The destination is not manually entered into the wireless
34 communication device while the licensee is driving the motor vehicle.

35 (b) The licensee does not manually adjust the wireless
36 communication device while driving the motor vehicle.

37 G. A peace officer shall not stop or issue a citation to a person
38 operating a motor vehicle on a highway in this state for a violation of
39 subsection D, E or F of this section unless the peace officer has
40 reasonable cause to believe there is another alleged violation of a motor
41 vehicle law of this state.

42 H. If a licensee is found responsible for violating subsection D, E
43 or F of this section, the licensee:

44 1. For a first violation, is subject to a maximum civil penalty of
45 \$75. The department shall extend the restriction prescribed by subsection

1 D, E or F of this section for thirty days, or if the restriction
2 prescribed by subsection D, E or F of this section is complete, the thirty
3 day restriction begins on the department's receipt of the report of the
4 finding of responsibility.

5 2. For a second violation, is subject to a maximum civil penalty of
6 \$100. The department shall extend the restriction prescribed by
7 subsection D, E or F of this section for sixty days, or if the restriction
8 prescribed by subsection D, E or F of this section is complete, the sixty
9 day restriction begins on the department's receipt of the report of the
10 finding of responsibility. If at the time of the second violation the
11 licensee is subject to an extension of the six month period pursuant to
12 paragraph 1 of this subsection, the extensions run consecutively.

13 3. For a third or subsequent violation, is subject to a maximum
14 civil penalty of \$100. On the department's receipt of the report of the
15 finding of responsibility, the department shall suspend the licensee's
16 driving privilege for thirty days. If the licensee also has a suspension
17 resulting from a moving civil traffic violation or a moving criminal
18 traffic offense as prescribed by section 28-3321, the suspensions run
19 consecutively.

20 I. A citation issued for violating subsection D of this section
21 shall be dismissed if the licensee to whom the citation was issued
22 produces any of the following evidence to the appropriate court officer on
23 or before the date and time specified on the citation for court appearance
24 and in a manner specified by the court:

25 1. A written, notarized letter from the parent or legal guardian of
26 the licensee that the licensee was going to or returning from a sanctioned
27 school sponsored activity, the licensee's place of employment, a
28 sanctioned religious activity or a family emergency.

29 2. A written, notarized letter from a representative of the
30 sanctioned school sponsored activity certifying that the licensee was
31 returning from the school activity.

32 3. A written, notarized letter from the licensee's employer
33 certifying that the licensee was returning from the licensee's place of
34 employment.

35 4. A written, notarized letter from a representative of the
36 sanctioned religious activity certifying that the licensee was returning
37 from the religious activity.

38 J. A citation issued for violating subsection E of this section
39 shall be dismissed if the licensee to whom the citation was issued
40 produces a written, notarized letter from the parent or legal guardian of
41 the licensee to the appropriate court officer on or before the date and
42 time specified on the citation for court appearance and in a manner
43 specified by the court that states the passengers in the vehicle with the
44 licensee at the time of the violation were the siblings of the licensee.

1 K. The restrictions imposed by subsection D, E or F of this section
2 do not apply beginning on the licensee's eighteenth birthday. Any
3 penalties or restrictions imposed pursuant to subsection H of this section
4 shall be fully satisfied even if the licensee is eighteen years of age or
5 older.

6 L. A person who holds a class G driver license may apply for a
7 class D license on or after the person's eighteenth birthday, except that
8 a person whose class G driver license is suspended pursuant to section
9 28-3321 is not entitled to receive a class D driver license until after
10 the suspension period expires.

11 M. If a person who is under eighteen years of age and at least
12 sixteen years of age applies for a class M license or a motorcycle
13 endorsement, the department shall not issue the class M license or
14 motorcycle endorsement to the person unless both of the following apply:

15 1. The applicant has held an instruction permit issued pursuant to
16 section 28-3156 for at least ~~six~~ NINE months, except that this requirement
17 does not apply to a person who has a currently valid motorcycle driver
18 license or endorsement issued by another jurisdiction.

19 2. Either:

20 (a) The person has satisfactorily completed a motorcycle driver
21 education program that is approved by the department. If the driver
22 education program is offered by a public high school, the program shall be
23 approved by the department of transportation in consultation with the
24 department of education.

25 (b) A custodial parent or guardian of the person certifies in
26 writing to the department that the applicant has completed at least ~~thirty~~
27 FIFTY hours of motorcycle driving practice.

28 Sec. 5. Effective date

29 This act is effective from and after November 30, 2026.

30 Sec. 6. Short title

31 This act may be cited as the "Juveniles Unlocking Driver Education
32 (JUDE) Act".