

Filed

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"MERQ Up!"<sup>SECRETARY OF STATE</sup>

'Improving Our Worth to Ourselves & Others'

Initiative Measure No. 1041

AN ACT Relating to driver's instruction permit requirements; amending RCW 46.20.055; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 1.**     (1) "MERQ" means medical emergency recognition quotient. By increasing our MERQ, or "MERQ Up!," we improve our ability to impose our love, on one another by bringing out the philanthropy we have within each of us that has the potential to save more lives of those we love, and we feel even greater to know that we have saved tons of taxpayer dollars! Elevating our MERQ, or "MERQ Up!," is likely to result in activating emergency medical services promptly and executing layperson care to improve patient viability for emergency medical services professionals in our homes and on the streets!

(2) Simply coupling the privilege to drive with the privilege to help by requiring all driver's instruction permit applicants to complete a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including automated external defibrillator and first aid as approved by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross, or a recognized

equivalent, before the issuance of a driver's instruction permit, will effectively increase our state's younger population of new drivers to get yoked and "MERQ Up!"

(3) Elevating one's MERQ and understanding layperson skills in order to do something productive for someone in need has many long-lasting benefits. Imagine someone you like a whole lot like your mom, dad, brother, or sister. Or how about a best friend? Or a teacher or classmate? Or a boss or a coworker? Or how about a neighbor or even a person you've never seen before? Wouldn't you like that person to be around in your life a whole lot longer? Well you can feel better about yourself by knowing what to do beforehand, instead of carrying a lot of guilt later on, if something horrible happened and you just stood there crying with your face in your hands, or worse with your hands in your pants, not knowing what to do! So do you want to elevate your MERQ to avoid the regret later on? Would you drive without insurance? Of course not! So be smart and be cool, and "MERQ Up!"

(4) Just imagine yourself as a driver or occupant in a car involved in an accident and one of the persons that got hurt was the sole or primary income earner in his or her household with three children. Well because you had a low MERQ or didn't bother to "MERQ Up!," and you didn't know what to do in this situation, the person ended up dying prematurely! Now the entire family is on welfare assistance relying on us taxpayers! So do you want to "MERQ Up!" to avoid the guilt, especially if you caused it and are the one that redirected more tax dollars to support the deceased's family? Can you feel a greater lawsuit and fines, and jail time for manslaughter? That's right! And all of it because you didn't "MERQ Up!"

(5) Now imagine yourself hanging out at your house and you noticed that your dad looked pale and a little sweaty and was short of breath, so you helped him to sit down, then you called 911. On another day your mom was making dinner and accidentally slipped and cut herself, then she fainted and was bleeding profusely, so you applied direct pressure to control the bleeding so that she wouldn't bleed to death, then you called 911. On another day you were goofing off cracking



jokes while eating with friends over at their house and one of you started choking, so you did the Heimlich maneuver and saved the day! Each time you knew what to do, how to do it, and became a hero all without even doing CPR! Any reason not to "MERQ Up?" This course requirement is not all about performing CPR baby! It could mean the difference between having your college tuition paid by the parent you saved or the lifelong memories you will be able to make with your brother, sister, pal, buddy, or best friend that you were able to save.

(6) Helping firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and other health care professionals save more lives as a direct result of this initiative will not raise taxes! In fact, it puts a little money in our much needed state's till. The cost of the course to "MERQ Up!" and to make a difference will vary. The fact remains that any parent who can afford auto insurance for their teenager can expect and afford to pay around seventy-five dollars per participant to increase his or her child's MERQ index, which may result in the parent's own life being saved from it! And there really isn't any reason to freak out over this because scholarships are available to offset or defer course costs!

(7) Any special interest or motivations behind this initiative of philanthropic origin is solely directed at that special someone who lives to be loved another day because this initiative makes a difference in the lives saved and by those who savor the difference.

(8) Proverbs 3:5-6.

**Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.055 and 2006 c 219 s 14 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) **Driver's instruction permit.** The department may issue a driver's instruction permit with or without a photograph to an applicant who has successfully passed all parts of the examination other than the driving test((7)); provided the information required by RCW 46.20.091((7)); submitted verification of completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid course, including use of an automated external defibrillator, approved by the American Heart

Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent program approved by the department; paid a fee of twenty dollars((7)); and meets the following requirements:

(a) Is at least fifteen and one-half years of age; or

(b) Is at least fifteen years of age and:

(i) Has submitted a proper application; and

(ii) Is enrolled in a traffic safety education program offered, approved, and accredited by the superintendent of public instruction or offered by a driver training school licensed and inspected by the department of licensing under chapter 46.82 RCW, that includes practice driving.

(2) **Waiver of written examination for instruction permit.** The department may waive the written examination, if, at the time of application, an applicant is enrolled in:

(a) A traffic safety education course as defined by RCW 28A.220.020(2); or

(b) A course of instruction offered by a licensed driver training school as defined by RCW 46.82.280(4).

The department may require proof of registration in such a course as it deems necessary.

(3) **Effect of instruction permit.** A person holding a driver's instruction permit may drive a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, upon the public highways if:

(a) The person has immediate possession of the permit; and

(b) An approved instructor, or a licensed driver with at least five years of driving experience, occupies the seat beside the driver.

(4) **Term of instruction permit.** A driver's instruction permit is valid for one year from the date of issue.

(a) The department may issue one additional one-year permit.

(b) The department may issue a third driver's permit if it finds after an investigation that the permittee is diligently seeking to improve driving proficiency.

(c) A person applying to renew an instruction permit must submit the application to the department in person.



NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 3.**     The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 4.**     If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 5.**     This Saving More Lives without Raising Taxes initiative shall be known and cited as the "I am your Samaritan act" or "MERQ Up!" The name of this act is an integral part of the message and mission of this initiative. It is of the love within us from our creator (Proverbs 3:5-6). It inspires people, as a group, and even goes all the way down to the intimate level of an individual as a sole rescuer, to answer the call of the hour utilizing his or her elevated MERQ index and layperson skills as performed and learned from the layperson course. We as a people have an obligation to cause social change to improve society for the next generation that includes responding as Samaritans for each other, especially to those we like a whole lot more than others. This is a nonpartisan effort to significantly improve the health and well-being of people by elevating the MERQ index and layperson skills of our younger population that come in touch with the people that make a difference in their life.

NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 6.**     Summary close: This measure concerns saving lives and to improve our quality of life through education, for the prevention of premature death among the sick and injured. It will empower and create a new healthy population of teenagers, year after year, as they seek to share the responsibilities of our roadways at an estimated one hundred twenty thousand new driver applicants per year basis. This measure will effectively produce so many wonderful and beautiful things, part of which can be discovered by reading the sample resolution below.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** WHEREAS, A new generation of teenagers and young adults should place the highest value on life and become better prepared to respond effectively to medical emergencies as laypersons, while sharing the responsibilities of our roadways; and

WHEREAS, Everyone who has been granted a driver's instruction permit will return home to their families as a greater asset in their abode, trained and prepared to respond effectively in the event of a medical emergency, including responding to the needs of their parents, guardians, friends, neighbors, and extended family; and

WHEREAS, All those who complete the new version of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automated external defibrillator, and first aid course will understand that chest compressions alone are effective and overcome the fear of contracting any virus or disease, as with giving breaths without the proper barrier protection devices while giving care to an unknown person, and, further, they will understand the protections in place while care is rendered as provided by the good Samaritan laws; and

WHEREAS, Through this required education comes the confidence to render a greater level of effective layperon care that creates a higher percentage of lives saved, both on and off our roadways, and, further, as the number of trained responders increases every year, so will the number of lives saved; and

WHEREAS, Honoring the call saves more lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The state of Washington will be the first state in the union to inspire all other states to enact, "I am your Samaritan act," in the spirit of saving more lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the voting citizens of our state join with other Washingtonians in saving more lives by endorsing, "I am your Samaritan act" or "MERQ Up!," this initiative to the people to promote life and to realize all efforts in the prevention of premature death and for the preservation of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution is sent to all Washington state legislators, Governor Christine Gregoire, leading media outlets in Washington state, and all the Washington state elected officials in Washington, D.C.