

Utah Driver Education News

**April 2022** 

2022 UDTSEA DRIVER EDUCATION CONFERENCE APRIL 25, 2022 in Cedar City, Utah

**Click Here to Register** 

# Registration is for both virtual and in person training.

8 hours of professional development is required annually to maintain a current driver education endorsement. This training is required and will only be available in person or virtually during the event so make sure you register and attend. LAST CHANCE TO GET A HOTEL ROOM FOR THE CONFERENCE, ROOM BLOCK IS CLOSING!

## **DE Law and Policy Course**

Required

Annual Training

Begins April 4, 2022

MIDAS #31794

**Click to Register** 

# H EDU 350

Begins May 16, 2022 University of Utah Continuing Ed

### **Click to Register**

## Utah driver's license exams will soon be offered in different languages

The <u>Utah Legislature</u> unanimously passed <u>SB216</u> in the final days of this year's legislative session. In fact, it was sent to the governor's office for final approval following a 70-0 vote from the Utah House of Representatives on the final day of the session, March 4.

The bill allows applicants for a driver's license with limited English proficiency to take the written portion of the license examination "in certain other languages," which are the five top languages other than English in the state. It instructs the <u>driver license</u> <u>branch</u> of the Utah Division of Motor Vehicles to work with the state's Division of Multicultural Affairs to compile the list on a regular basis.

The Utah Department of Health reported in 2016 that Spanish, Chinese, German and Navajo were the most prominent languages spoken in Utah, aside from English.

So why does the bill matter so much? When Sen. Luz Escamilla, D-Salt Lake City, first introduced the bill to the Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee on Feb. 25, she pointed out that the Governor's Office of Economic Development pinpointed the idea when trying to solve economic disparity issues. It became a top priority for this reason.

She explained that driver's licenses are important for employment but, prior to this year, were only available in English. While the signs on the roads will remain in English, Escamilla said the point of this change is that it's difficult to understand the laws or concept of laws for people struggling to understand the language of the test, too. <u>Read Full Story Here</u>

### 2022 New Traffic Laws passed by Utah Legislation

#### HB10: Lane filtering for motorcycles

- Motorcyclists can move to the front of a traffic light on roads where the speed limit is 45 mph or less and has two or more adjacent traffic lanes in the same direction of travel.
- Motorcyclists can only move to the front when vehicles are stopped.
- Motorcyclists can't move more than 15 mph when filtering lanes.

HB53: Cracks down on excessive speeders, especially those clocked at triple-digit speeds.

- A new minimum fine for anyone caught going 100 mph or faster. This, per the bill, is "a fine not less than 150% of the suggested fine in the uniform fine schedule" <u>authorized by the state</u>. The fine total varies based on the speed limit of the road, so anyone caught traveling 100 mph on a road with a 40 mph speed limit would face a steeper fine than anyone caught traveling 100 mph on a road with an 80 mph limit.
- Amends the qualifications of reckless driving to include anyone clocked at 105 mph or faster. Reckless
  driving is a class B misdemeanor, per Utah code.
- Anyone caught speed racing will face a class A misdemeanor instead of a class B misdemeanor. An illegal vehicle caught speeding racing may also be seized, under the law.

<u>HB139</u>: Creates a deferred prosecution program for someone charged with a traffic infraction. A driver can have a ticket expunged if they don't have a new traffic infraction within the ensuing 24 months, pay their fine and don't have any more violations in the ensuing 12 months without dealing with attorneys.

<u>HB328</u>: Allows Utah drivers with underlying mental health conditions or disabilities to add a "discrete symbol" to their driver license, as well as information about the condition kept with the state's Driver License Division, if they so choose. This information can be accessed by law enforcement during a traffic stop, medical emergency or criminal investigation, which she said can help officers understand "unique dynamics of their contact and may also act as an early escalation tool."

<u>HB 29</u>: Driving Offenses Amendments- Modifies offenses and penalties concerning the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol or while having any measurable amount of a controlled substance in the operator's body; Amends negligent driving offenses subject to enhancement under certain circumstances; Adjusts offenses subject to driver license suspension and revocation; Amends offenses subject to ignition interlock system requirements and Modifies offenses relating to alcohol restricted drivers.

<u>HB 76</u> – Vehicle Merger Amendments – this bill requires an operator of a vehicle to use the zipper method when two traffic lanes merge into one traffic lane.

# **UDTSEA BOARD**

The board is designed to represent you, and be a direct resource for current up to date information. If you have questions or would like assistance with your program, reach out to the board member in your area.

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