

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**  
**House of Representatives**

*Bill Summary*

**Bill Number:** H.3643

**Bill Name:** An Act relative to junior operators

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. Manny Cruz

**Hearing Date:** July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (**Reporting Date:** September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

**Bill History:** (2023-2024) H.3861; Received favorable report from committee.

**Similar Bills:** S.2415

---

**Summary of  
Proposed Law:**

**§1** Establishes a “Junior Operator’s License Fund” to be administered by the registry in order to provide financial assistance for driver education and training courses.

States that the fund may be credited with appropriations from the legislature and funds from public and private gifts.

Allows students to receive assistance from the fund if their household is eligible for the following programs:

- The federal free or reduced lunch program,
- MassHealth,
- The supplemental nutrition assistance program,
- The federal program of temporary assistance for needy families, and/or
- The residential assistance for families in transition program.

**§2** Amends prohibition for junior operators to transport underage passengers in a vehicle (who is not an immediate family member) without supervision (of a licensed 21-year-old) for their first six months of licensure to a prohibition for the first 90 days of licensure instead.

§3

Requires providers of driver education courses to notify students of the requirements of the course and the required amount of time to complete the course.

Requires such providers of driver education courses to refund students if the provider fails to provide the above notification or if the student is not able to complete the course in the indicated time (through no fault of the student.)

Further requires driver education courses to refund students if the student's learner's permit expires before the student completes the course.

Establishes a fine or civil penalty to be assessed by the Attorney General's office of no more than \$1,000 for violating the above requirements.

Directs the registry to collect data on the number of enrollments in driver education courses, the number of students whose learner's permit expired before obtaining a junior operator's license, the possible reasons for the prior data point, and identifying information for any driver education courses along with the number of learner's permits that expired while applicants were enrolled in their program.

Requires the registry to file an annual report on such data with the Attorney General's office, who shall create an advisory board to review the reports and establish a form for requesting refunds from driver education courses.