

New Law Says Safety Education Course Required Before Youngsters 16-18 Can Get Drivers License

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SAMPLE

As of November 1, North Carolina young people between 16 and 18 who want to drive will have to complete a traffic safety education course.

The 1963 General Assembly said so, in effect, when it passed a law requiring all 16 to 18 year old youths to satisfactorily complete a course in driver education before being licensed.

For thousands of teenagers the new law will mean some delay in starting to drive.

Although regular driver education courses in the high schools can potentially qualify thousands of youths, not all students elect to take the course.

Acting under the new law, the Motor Vehicles Department is rushing to completion a traffic safety course for each of the state's 100 counties to supplement the high school courses.

It is estimated that upward of 70,000 young people will have to get their driver training course from Department operated schools. These would be persons not enrolled in high school or enrolled in high schools where driver education is not available.

Elbert Peters, motor vehicles executive, is in charge of the program. Newsman recently attended a conference to learn something about the new training and its administration.

"Mr. Peters," a reporter asked, "What is the purpose of the new provisional driver license law?"

ANSWER - In the fewest words possible, it provides for safety instruction among 16 and 18 year old youths in order to improve the accident record of this group. The law, as you know, was passed by the Legislature and responsibility for implementing the program was assigned to the Motor Vehicles Department and specifically to the Driver Education Division.

Q - After the new law goes into effect, what specific requirements must be met by those under 18 wanting a driver's license?

A - The applicant must meet one of the following requirements: satisfactorily complete a regular driver education course in high school, complete a course approved by the Governor's Coordinating Committee on Traffic Safety

or complete the course being established by the Motor Vehicles Department.

Q - If no high school course is available, an applicant automatically becomes eligible for the Department's course. Is that true?

A - Yes. That's basically the reason for the program. We estimate perhaps 100,000 youths turn 16 each year with about one-half of that number being enrolled in high school driver training.

Q - Then the rest will have to attend the motor vehicles course?

A - For the most part, yes. We will have schools operating very soon in each of the 100 counties in order to take care of the backlog of applicants. I am reasonably sure that some young people may have to wait several months before they can be licensed.

Q - This will be a disappointment for them, won't it?

A - Yes, of course. But traffic safety authorities agree that driver education courses are essential in the improvement of the driving record of this group. For example, the 16-18 year old group makes up slightly more

than two per cent of the driver population in the state; yet they are involved in more than eight per cent of the traffic accidents. The Department's courses are designed to help applicants develop desirable driving attitudes and habits, familiarize them with the rules, regulations, and laws governing motor vehicle operation, and acquaint them with the serious hazards presented by poor drivers.

Q - What are the enrollment procedures?

A - A person can apply for enrollment in the Department's courses at any driver license station. He must have a birth certificate to verify his age, and if he is enrolled in a high school he must have a form signed by his principal stating that a regular driver education course is not available to him. A person not enrolled in high school must have a birth certificate to verify his age. All applicants will fill out an enrollment card. After the driver license examiner checks the completeness of the form, the person is enrolled in the course to be held in his area.

Q - What then?

A - When the enrollment procedure has been completed, the applicant will be given a letter directed to his parent or guardian from the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles which will explain the details and background of the course and indicate the location, date, and time the classes will be held.

Applicants who satisfactorily complete the course of instruction offered by the Department of Motor Vehicles will be given a certificate of completion. This certificate will serve as evidence of course completion when the applicant applies to the examiner for his license.

Q - Would you outline some general information about the course?

A - The proposed courses will include eight hours of intensified classroom instruction covering the traffic safety phases of the high school driver education program. Unfortunately, limited time and facilities will not permit the course to provide

behind-the-wheel instruction.

Q - One other thing, Mr. Peters, who will teach the courses and where will classes be held?

A - Members of our own staff; that is driver education representatives will conduct the training. As for time and location, the program will be scheduled generally for afternoon, evenings, and on Saturdays, so as not to conflict with regular high school classes. Schedules will, of necessity, remain flexible and at the discretion of the representative, who will also be responsible for selecting classroom facilities. As to classroom facilities, highway patrol installations, courthouses, community buildings, or schools would be preferred. In general, efforts will be made to schedule courses for the convenience of the greater number of students.

Q - What about textbooks?

A - The familiar "Traffic Law and Highway Safety" will be provided for course participants. This text will be supplemented by leaflets, pamphlets, and audio-visual materials.

Dates Set For Driver Course For Cherokee And Clay

MURPHY - Driver Education Representative Joe Sherrill of the Department of Motor Vehicles announced this week that driver education courses, sponsored by the vehicles agency, have been scheduled for this area.

Editor's Note-Book

The month-long drought was finally ended last Friday with an all day shower, followed by colder weather that produced temperatures dropping into the low 20's. The rain also ended the ban on hunting and fishing and other activities in forest lands.

Football fans at games in the area Friday night shivered through cold, rainy, windy weather, but few complained because this was the first bad weather of the entire season.

The American Legion Auxiliary in Murphy wants used dolls and toys, which they will fix and re-outfit for Christmas baskets. They also collect used clothing which is distributed throughout the year.

The 8th grade class at Hayesville is sponsoring a wrestling match Saturday night, Nov. 16, at 8:15 p.m. in the Hayesville High Gym.

Included in the Grand Jury report for this term of Superior Court was an order for school authorities to again review stopping places on school bus routes, with the objective being to any dangerous stops.

The Boy Scout Victory Dinner at Andrews Monday night was postponed to Nov. 21, due to the death of a member of the Scout troop there.

Anderson Trial Is Continued

MURPHY - Solicitor Glen Brown read a letter in Superior Court here Wednesday from an Atlanta doctor who is treating Sheriff Claude Anderson there, saying that the sheriff's condition would not permit him to come here for this term of court.

On the docket for this term of court was the case against H. M. Anderson, who is charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, not resulting in death.

H. M. Anderson is charged as the assailant in the attack that seriously wounded the sheriff here Sept. 7.

Judge George Patton said the case would be continued until the March-April term of Superior Court which convenes here March 30 of next year.

The judge stipulated that the case would be tried at the next term, with no further continuances.

GOP Women To Sponsor Dance Here

MURPHY - A square dance is set for Saturday night at the Rock Gym here, sponsored by the Cherokee County Republican Women's Club.

Officers of the club said this week that the dance is open to the public and that music will start at 7:30 p.m.

Admission was listed at 50¢ for students and \$1 for adults, with small children able to come along free.

Music will be provided by Doyle Barker and his string band, and concession stands will be operated by members of the club.

Tickets are presently on sale by members of the club.

WEATHER
Date High Low Prec.
Oct. 31 61 24 0.00
Nov. 1 71 26 0.93
2 49 23 0.00
3 56 15 0.00
4 60 22 0.00
5 69 41 0.32
6 66 48 0.66
Forecast: Thursday, overcast; Friday, broken cloudiness, scattered showers; Saturday and Sunday, scattered showers and thunder showers.

Mr. Sherrill said high school students will be required to have written permission from their principal prior to enrollment.

The first courses scheduled for this area are as follows: Cherokee County, dates Nov. 19 and 26, 10:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00, time, place Power Board Building, Murphy, and Clay County, dates Nov. 25 and December 2, 10:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00, time, place Hayesville School, Hayesville, N. C.



PRESIDENTS OF WOMAN'S CLUBS from District 1 chose costumes of bygone days for an original skit for the District meeting here last Thursday, directed by Mrs. Willard S. Hall of Fontana, District President. The ladies shown are (left row, bottom to top) Mrs. J. L. Woody of Bryson City, Mrs. Robert C. Rhea of Canton, Mrs. Harriet Murray of Franklin, Mrs. Bud Penland of Murphy, Mrs. Kent Coward of Sylva and Mrs. T. S. Seizer of Waynesville; (right row, bottom to top) Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Marie Hopwood of Fontana, Mrs. James Cherry of Robbinsville, Mrs. Dan Allison, Jr. of Sylva and Mrs. Don Womick of Bryson City.

State President Woman's Club Here For Meeting

MURPHY - "We must be mindful of the past, faithful to the present and hopeful for the future," said Mrs. James M. Harper of Southport, President of the N. C. Federation of Woman's Clubs, speaking here last Thursday at a District I Annual meeting.

Organizational Meeting Nov. 11 For Jaycee Club

MURPHY - An organizational meeting of the Murphy Junior Chamber of Commerce will be held in the Murphy Power Board Building Monday, November 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Business scheduled is the setting of a dues rate, final approval of by-laws and constitution, final arrangements for affiliation with the state and United States Junior Chambers of Commerce and a review of plans for a charter night banquet, tentatively scheduled for December.

Edwin Manchester, temporary chairman for the Jaycee local, reports that over 15 men have already been enrolled and that at least 15 more are expected to join the group at the November 11 meeting.

Manchester urged interested men to contact him by phoning 897-2711 or attend next week's meeting.

Membership in the Murphy Junior Chamber of Commerce is open to all young men between the ages of 21 through 35, regardless of occupational or professional classification.

More than 60 delegates from clubs in the district, which takes in most of WNC were here for the meeting, which included a luncheon at Regal Hotel.

Mrs. Harper's theme was "Let Us Take Time" and she covered five important points: determining the difference between the important and the trivial; putting better impulses into action; to be large in thought, word and deeds; to share blessings; to consider our heritage.

District officers present included Mrs. Willard S. Hall of Fontana, president; Mrs. Gerand E. Baldwin of Fontana, secretary - treasurer; and Mrs. Kent Coward of Sylva, director of juniors.

Following a registration and refreshment hour, Mrs. Hall presided over the General Assembly. Mrs. F. L. Abernathy of Murphy gave the devotional and Mrs. Max M. Blakemore of Murphy welcomed the group.

Departmental Chairmen Reports were given by Mrs. Frank Cogburn of Canton, Mrs. Blakemore, and Mrs. Wayne Terrell of Dillsboro. Mrs. Inez DeBord of Bryson City, Mrs. Robert Sloan of Franklin and Mrs. J. Colvin Brown, Sr., of Waynesville.

Mrs. Hall, who is serving her second term as president of the district, directed an original skit entitled, "A District President's Dream", following the luncheon.

Mrs. Harper revealed that NBC news commentator Pauling Frederick will be the main speaker at the state convention in Greensboro next April.

Driver Found Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter

MURPHY - A verdict of guilty of involuntary manslaughter was returned here Tuesday for James Ralph Tipton, driver of a local feed truck that struck and killed a 16 year old school girl leaving a school bus on U. S. 64 a mile and a half East of the Tennessee line, November 1, 1962.

Along with the verdict, the jury recommended mercy to Judge George Patton, who is presiding over the November term of Superior Court under way here this week.

Judge Patton sentenced the truck driver to a prison sentence of not less than three nor more than five years, suspended for five years on conditions; a \$500 fine and cost, and a two-year suspension of his driver's license.

The trial lasted most of the day Tuesday, and the jury deliberated over an hour before returning a verdict.

Victim of the accident was Sherry Sue Ledford, a Hiwassee Dam High School student, who lived in the Wolf Creek Community.

Tipton was driving a feed delivery truck for Wayne's Feed Store of Murphy, owned by Wayne Holland, who is also the defendant's uncle.

Testimony in the case showed that the bus had stopped in a curve, near the foot of a hill, letting students off, and that the truck driver rounded the curve, was unable to stop and went around the bus to keep from ramming into it. The girl had walked around in front of the stopped bus and was almost across the road when struck by the truck.

Defense attorney Herman Edwards said that his client was blinded by the sun when

he rounded the curve, and was unable to see the bus in time to stop. The driver testified that he was traveling about 35 mph at the time.

Solicitor Glen Brown, who prosecuted the case, assisted by Cherokee County Recorder's court solicitor Fred Christopher, based his case on the fact that the feed truck was loaded with six tons of bulk feed, and considering the road, the truck was exceeding a safe and reasonable speed.

The state presented as witnesses J. A. Kell, Copperhill RFD mail carrier who saw the accident; Lloyd Ensley, a delivery truck driver who arrived at the scene shortly after the accident; Johnny Cook, driver of the school bus; Highway Patrolman D. M. Moran who investigated; Margie Cook, a student on the bus who saw the accident; Brenda Quinn, another student who was also getting off the bus and witnessed the accident; and J. B. Corey of Robbinsville, a civil engineer from Robbinsville who later surveyed the scene and testified that the bus could be seen for a distance of over 400 feet after rounding the curve.

The defendant testified in his own defense. Other witnesses for the defense included Ed Townsend, local auto dealer who brought the truck back to Murphy, and said the brakes were good, and Mayer Behrman and J. B. Brendle as character witnesses.

Following the verdict, the defense attorney pointed out to Judge Patton that an earlier civil suit concerning the case had awarded \$16,000 to the girl's family.

The judge did not pronounce the sentence until Wednesday morning.



Speakers At Rally

Superior Court Judge George B. Patton, who is presiding over the November term here, was the main speaker at a dinner meeting and rally here Tuesday night sponsored by the Cherokee County Democratic Women's Club; also on the program was Solicitor Glen Brown, lower photo, who is also here for the court term. Herman Edwards served as master of ceremonies and other guests included Sen. Frank Forsyth.

Unaka Community Wins First Place In Contest

MURPHY - Unaka Community Development Club took first place honors for the first year's work of the program in Cherokee County.

Awards were made at a banquet here last Saturday night. Along with a \$50 check, Unaka won a plaque for the first place finish.

Coming in second place was Wolf Creek Community, with a \$25 prize, and Sunny Point third, with a \$15 prize.

W. D. Townsend of Murphy made the awards, saying "I've lived here all my life, and this community development program is one of the finest things I've ever seen here."

County Council president Troy Simonds presided over the meeting, attended by some 40 members and guests at Family Restaurant here.

Frank Murray of Andrews, secretary - treasurer, introduced the guests.

Harry Bagley, author of Cuz's Corner, was on the

program as entertainment for the evening, bringing with him a bag of tricks to illustrate his humorous remarks.

Speaker for the evening was Joe Cash, Farm and Home Extension Supervisor for seven WNC counties.

"We have an obligation to make community development a success in Cherokee County," he told the audience.

He pointed out that there are presently 130 organized communities in WNC, and that a half million dollars a year is spent in support of the program.

As winner of the Cherokee County program, Unaka Community will enter into the regional judging for WNC.

Judges for the regional contest will be in the community Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 1:45 - 3:30 p.m. Unaka will be an entry in the farm division, with \$4,250 in prize money at stake.

Andrews Vs. Tryon In Playoffs Wildcats Rack Bulldogs 30-0

ANDREWS - Andrews High's explosive Wildcats were held to seven points here Friday in the first half against Murphy's Bulldogs, but turned loose a varied offense in the second half, including the first field goal in memory, to end their season with a 30-0 win.

The Wildcats finished with a 8-1 record, record, winding up second in the conference and winning the Class A title.

Andrews goes into State Western Division Class A playoffs Friday, Nov. 15, meeting Tryon High, winners in the Pisgah Conference, at 8:00 p.m. on the Waynesville

High field.

Early offensive displays for the Cats came on kickoff and punt returns of 28, 25, and 30 yards in the first quarter.

Terry Marr scooted over for a 15 yard TD run in the first period, only to be called back on a penalty.

Murphy took over and punted four plays later.

After the 30 yard punt return by David Slagle, Marr ran a 16 yard tally on second down, for a 7-0 Andrews lead, following John Gernert's PAT kick.

Stiff defensive action, fumbles and penalties kept both teams bottled up for the remainder of the first half.

In the third period, Murphy got a drive going that carried into Wildcat territory, but a Wayne Watson pass was intercepted by Terry Marr, who returned the interception for a 60 yard TD. The conversion attempt failed.

Later in the period, Andrews took a Murphy punt and moved to the Bulldog 12, where they stalled with 4th down and several yards to go. Gernert set up his kicking tee and split the uprights with a field goal from the 19. The field goal kick actually traveled 29 yards, including the distance from the goal line to the posts.

A recovered fumble in the fourth period led to Andrews next score, with Mike Shady going over from the one. Gernert kicked the PAT.

The Wildcats grabbed another fumble on Murphy's 28 later in the period, and four plays later, Shady went over from the 8, and Gernert added the final point.

STATISTICS		
	Andrews	Murphy
First Downs	11	10
Rush. Yds.	161	88
Pass. Yds.	66	64
Passes	14-8	18-7
Punts	1-36	5-21
Fumbles Lost	2	4
Penalties	95.	35

WILDCAT END Butch Savage was unable to take this pass from Jimmy Watkins, as he was hit with a jarring tackle by an unidentified Murphy defensive man.