
VSBEPE Agenda Item 1(LC): Waiver of 18-credit requirement for Driver and Traffic Safety education

ITEM: Shall the VSBEPE Waive rule 5443.1 for Driver and Traffic Safety Education?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the Board waives rule 5443.1, the 18-credit requirement, for Driver and Traffic Safety allowing for 17 credits.

5443.1 The holder of any license who wishes to qualify for an additional endorsement via transcript review shall present evidence of meeting the current knowledge and performance standards, recency of study, and Jurisdiction Specific Requirements of the endorsement. A minimum of eighteen (18) credit hours, or as specified by the endorsement, is required. Only coursework for which the applicant received a grade of “B” or better may be counted toward the requirements for any additional endorsement.

BACKGROUND: Keene State College has suspended their Driver and Traffic Safety Program leaving only one option in the region through White Mountain Community College in New Hampshire, which is only 17 credits.

In the past Keene state has issued 17 credits for New Hampshire residents, but 18 credits for Vermont residents. The one credit difference was through the Zone Control course, which had no functional difference. In fact, NH and VT residents were taking the same course together, however VT residents were issued (and billed for) an additional credit on their transcript to meet the requirements of 5443.1.

WMCC has requested guidance as they hope to avoid a higher cost for Vermont residents and keep their program at only 17 credits for all candidates.

This has not been an issue for VT educators adding the endorsement since they have additional education coursework on their transcripts to meet the 18-credit threshold. Since we are now working with WMCC to facilitate initial licensure through their program, the Office requests a waiver.