

Driving license up to 20 percent cheaper - MOVING knows how!

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The MOVING International Road Safety Association e.V., which is committed to improving road safety through educational initiatives and accident prevention measures in the areas of driver's license training, road safety education and road safety, is campaigning for the acquisition of car driving licenses (class B) to be tax-privileged. This is intended to promote individual mobility and reduce the financial burden, particularly for young people.

Simple - Efficient - Advantageous

"Owning a car remains of central importance for individual mobility. At the same time, it is foreseeable that the costs for qualified driver's license training will continue to rise in the future," explains Jörg-Michael Satz, President of MOVING. He emphasizes: "Tax relief could noticeably reduce this financial burden. By recognizing driving license training as a household-related service in accordance with Section 35a EStG, taxpayers could deduct their training costs directly in their income tax return". The tax reduction for proven household-related services amounts to 20% of the eligible expenses, up to a maximum of € 4,000 per year.

A decisive advantage of this tax incentive lies in its simple implementation. Applications can be submitted via established tax return procedures without any additional bureaucratic effort. In contrast, bonus models would involve a considerable administrative burden.

A concrete example

A learner driver with a taxable income of € 18,000 and income tax of € 1,150 pays € 4,000 for her driving license. According to § 35a EStG, she could deduct 20% of these expenses for the driving license, i.e. € 800, directly from her tax liability. This would reduce her income tax from € 1,150 to € 350. If there was no income tax liability, the benefit could be used via payments from the family circle. According to the representative learner driver survey¹, around half of all driving licenses are paid for by themselves or by third parties.

Key to mobility and career prospects

For many people in Germany, having their own car is essential to getting around in their everyday lives - both today and in the future. According to the Allensbach study "Mobility and Sustainability" (2023), 74% of the population consider the car to be essential. In large cities,

¹ MOVING Trend Study 2024, n=725

the figure is 62%, rising to 84% in rural regions. A driving license also broadens career prospects. In many industries, it is a basic requirement, especially for professional drivers who have to obtain further licenses (e.g. C and D) after their class B driving license.

Costs rise with the requirements

The cost of obtaining a driver's license is rising continuously. According to a representative MOVING survey², the average price for a car driving license (category B) in 2025 is already 3,228€ - an increase of around 5% compared to the previous year³. The main reason for this development is the ongoing shortage of driving instructors, which is reflected in sharply rising salaries. In 2019 and 2023, the median salary in this profession rose by 21.7% compared to just 11.6% in Germany⁴. In addition, investments in climate-friendly mobility are driving up costs. Many driving schools are modernizing their fleets with electric vehicles and increasingly relying on digital learning methods such as simulators. Rising rents and energy costs are also putting a strain on driving schools and leading to higher prices for learner drivers.

Actively shaping sustainable mobility

MOVING is responding to society's mobility needs and offering a practical solution by proposing tax incentives for obtaining a driving license. "We see the need and expect noticeably positive effects if it is implemented - both for individual mobility and for the driving school sector," emphasizes Jörg-Michael Satz.

MOVING is thus sending out a clear signal for modern, sustainable and affordable driver's license training in Germany.

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Note: In line with standard industry practice, we do not use the masculine and feminine forms simultaneously in this document. This is for reasons of better readability and is intended to improve comprehensibility. We emphasize this: All personal designations apply equally to all genders.

² MOVING driving school market 2025, n=400

³ MOVING driving school market 2024, n=400

⁴ Federal Employment Agency statistics 2024, own calculations