

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 149

DUI Education Courses

SPONSOR(S): Mahon

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Transportation Committee</u>	<u>15 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Thompson</u>	<u>Miller</u>
2) <u>Criminal Justice Committee</u>	<u>6 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Kramer</u>	<u>Kramer</u>
3) <u>State Infrastructure Council</u>		<u>Thompson</u>	<u>Havlicak</u>
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 149 requires that DUI education courses be conducted only by certified DUI instructors. The bill calls for face-to-face instruction and for interaction in the classroom among offenders and instructors. The bill prohibits DUI education courses from being conducted via the Internet, remote electronic technology, home study, distance learning, or any other method in which the instructor and all offenders are not physically present in the same classroom.

DUI programs are offered by both public and private organizations that provide education, evaluation and treatment referral services to DUI offenders as required by court order or by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV). The programs are governed by administrative rules which require certain minimum hours of classroom instruction with certified instructors and interactive educational techniques. While DHSMV rules require that DUI programs include classroom instruction, no specific provision in the Florida Statutes currently requires the program to be delivered in this manner.

The bill may impact those providers that would propose to conduct DUI courses via the Internet or by other alternative methods. The bill has no fiscal impact on state or local governments and becomes effective July 1, 2006.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government- The bill would prevent organizations that could potentially offer alternative methods of DUI educational courses from providing such services in the state. However, these alternative methods are not currently allowed by DHSMV rules.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Section 316.193(5), F.S., requires a person who is convicted of a DUI offense to complete a substance abuse course conducted by a DUI program. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) licenses and regulates DUI programs.¹ DUI programs are offered by both public and private organizations that provide education, evaluation, and treatment referral services as required by court order or by DHSMV. The DUI education programs are operated by various safety councils, counseling centers, private traffic schools, and other public and private entities.

Current law requires that DUI program applicants must have a classroom in each county in the circuit located in a permanent structure that is readily accessible by public transportation, if public transportation is available. However, a classroom is not required in any county where the total number of DUI convictions in the most recent calendar year is less than 100.²

DUI programs are governed by administrative rules which require certain minimum hours of classroom instruction with certified instructors and interactive educational techniques. Chapter 15A-10 of the Florida Administrative Code outlines the standards for DHSMV's DUI programs. Currently, the rules require the following for DUI education classes:

- DUI programs are only to employ instructors, Special Supervision Services evaluators, clinical supervisors and evaluators who are certified by DHSMV.³
- Each organization conducting a DUI program shall have sufficient classroom space to comfortably accommodate all students with a minimum of twenty (20) square feet of space per student unless otherwise authorized by local officials.⁴
- Courses shall be taught by using primarily interactive educational techniques.⁵

While DUI program classroom instruction is required under department rules, no specific provision in the Florida Statutes requires the program to be delivered in this manner. No specific language in the rules prohibits DUI education courses from being conducted via the Internet, remote electronic technology, home study, distance learning, or any other method. However, the requirements in the administrative code relating to interactive instruction and classroom space appear to indicate that the only method for DUI education courses will be in a classroom.

Effect of Proposed Changes

HB 149 incorporates current DUI program standards from the Florida Administrative Code into law. The bill amends s. 322.292, F.S., requiring that DUI education courses be conducted only by certified DUI instructors. The bill requires face-to-face instruction and interaction in the classroom among

¹ See s. 322.292(1), F.S.

² See s. 322.292(2)(c)5.c., F.S.

³ Rule 15A-10.022(1), F.A.C.

⁴ Rule 15A-10.023(1), F.A.C.

⁵ Rule 15A-10.025(2), F.A.C.

offenders and instructors. The bill specifically prohibits DUI education courses from being conducted via the Internet, remote electronic technology, home study, distance learning, or any other method in which the instructor and all offenders are not physically present in the same classroom.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates subsection (4) of s. 322.292, F.S., requiring DUI certified instructors in the classroom and prohibiting alternative methods for DUI education courses.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill would prevent organizations that might specialize in alternative methods of DUI educational courses from providing such services in the state. HB 149 will allow DUI educational courses to be conducted only by organizations that are registered with DHSMV's DUI program and meet its classroom only guidelines.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to a representative of the Florida Association of DUI Programs, Inc., the fee for Level I DUI program courses (first offense) is \$210 and the fee for Level II courses (second offense) is \$320.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because this bill does not appear to: require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take actions requiring expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES