

By Senator Crist

12-02956A-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to driver education; creating s. 322.093,  
3 F.S.; requiring that minors complete a driver education  
4 course prior to issuance of a driver's license; providing  
5 that the course may be given by a public secondary school,  
6 nonpublic school, or commercial driving school meeting  
7 specified requirements; requiring the school to issue a  
8 certificate to a student who successfully completes the  
9 course; amending s. 1003.48, F.S.; providing instruction  
10 and training requirements for driver education courses;  
11 providing for the use of certain funds; providing an  
12 effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16 Section 1. Section 322.093, Florida Statutes, is created to  
17 read:

18 322.093 Driver education for minors.--The department may  
19 not issue a driver's license to a person who has not attained 18  
20 years of age unless the person has successfully completed a  
21 driver education course of instruction in the operation of motor  
22 vehicles given by a public secondary school in compliance with s.  
23 1003.48, a nonpublic school meeting the standards prescribed  
24 under s. 1003.48, or a commercial driving school licensed under  
25 chapter 488. The school shall issue a certificate to each student  
26 who successfully completes the driver education course.

27 Section 2. Section 1003.48, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
28 read:

29 1003.48 Instruction in operation of motor vehicles.--

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30 (1) A course of study and instruction in the safe and  
31 lawful operation of a motor vehicle shall be made available by  
32 each district school board to students in the secondary schools  
33 in the state. As used in this section, the term "motor vehicle"  
34 shall have the same meaning as in s. 320.01(1)(a) and shall  
35 include motorcycles and mopeds. The course must include classroom  
36 instruction and behind-the-wheel training, except that  
37 instruction in motorcycle or moped operation may be limited to  
38 classroom instruction. The course shall not be made a part of, or  
39 a substitute for, any of the minimum requirements for graduation.

40 (2) In order to make such a course available to any  
41 secondary school student, the district school board may use any  
42 one of the following procedures or any combination thereof:

43 (a) Utilize instructional personnel employed by the  
44 district school board.

45 (b) Contract with a commercial driving school licensed  
46 under the provisions of chapter 488.

47 (c) Contract with an instructor certified under the  
48 provisions of chapter 488.

49 (3)(a) District school boards shall earn funds on full-time  
50 equivalent students at the appropriate basic program cost factor,  
51 regardless of the method by which such courses are offered.

52 (b) For the purpose of financing the Driver Education  
53 Program in the secondary schools, there shall be levied an  
54 additional 50 cents per year to the driver's license fee required  
55 by s. 322.21. The additional fee shall be promptly remitted to  
56 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, which shall  
57 transmit the fee to the Chief Financial Officer to be deposited  
58 in the General Revenue Fund.

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59        (c) A board of county commissioners may use funds received  
60 pursuant to s. 318.1215 to supplement funds for driver education  
61 courses in public and nonpublic schools as provided in s.  
62 318.1215.

63        (4) The district school board shall prescribe standards for  
64 the course required by this section and for instructional  
65 personnel directly employed by the district school board. Any  
66 certified instructor or licensed commercial driving school shall  
67 be deemed sufficiently qualified and shall not be required to  
68 meet any standards in lieu of or in addition to those prescribed  
69 under chapter 488.

70        Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.