

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to driver education and testing; amending
 3 ss. 318.1451 and 322.095, F.S.; requiring the curricula of
 4 driver improvement courses and traffic law and substance
 5 abuse education courses to include instruction on the
 6 risks associated with using a handheld electronic
 7 communication device while operating a motor vehicle;
 8 amending s. 322.56, F.S.; providing for written
 9 examination for a learner's driver's license to be
 10 available from third-party providers; providing an
 11 effective date.

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

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 15 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 16 318.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 318.1451 Driver improvement schools.—

18 (2) (a) In determining whether to approve the courses
 19 referenced in this section, the department shall consider course
 20 content designed to promote safety, driver awareness, crash
 21 avoidance techniques, awareness of the risks associated with
 22 using a handheld electronic communication device while operating
 23 a motor vehicle, and other factors or criteria to improve driver
 24 performance from a safety viewpoint.

25 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 322.095, Florida
 26 Statutes, is amended to read:

27 322.095 Traffic law and substance abuse education program
 28 for driver's license applicants.—

29 (1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
30 must approve traffic law and substance abuse education courses
31 that must be completed by applicants for a Florida driver's
32 license. The curricula for the courses must provide instruction
33 on the physiological and psychological consequences of the abuse
34 of alcohol and other drugs, the societal and economic costs of
35 alcohol and drug abuse, the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on
36 the driver of a motor vehicle, the risks associated with using a
37 handheld electronic communication device while operating a motor
38 vehicle, and the laws of this state relating to the operation of
39 a motor vehicle. All instructors teaching the courses shall be
40 certified by the department.

41 Section 3. Subsections (4) through (7) of section 322.56,
42 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) through (8),
43 respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section,
44 to read:

45 322.56 Contracts for administration of driver's license
46 examination.—

47 (4) All applicants for a learner's driver's license shall
48 have the ability to take the written examination required by s.
49 322.12 through a third-party provider. The department shall
50 contract with providers of approved traffic law and substance
51 abuse education courses to serve as third-party administrators
52 to conduct, on behalf of the department, knowledge tests under
53 this subsection.

54 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.