

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. 322.12, F.S.; providing requirements for
 9 driver license examination questions pertaining to traffic
 10 regulations relating to blind pedestrians; amending s.
 11 322.56, F.S.; providing for written examination for a
 12 learner's driver's license to be available from third-
 13 party providers; providing an effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 18 318.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 318.1451 Driver improvement schools.—

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

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

29 | 322.095 Traffic law and substance abuse education program
 30 | for driver's license applicants.—

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

43 | Section 3. Subsection (6) is added to section 322.12,
 44 | Florida Statutes, to read:

45 | 322.12 Examination of applicants.—

46 | (6) Each examination given for a Class E driver's license
 47 | or a commercial driver's license under this section must include
 48 | one question testing the applicant's knowledge of traffic
 49 | regulations to assist blind persons. In developing questions
 50 | under this subsection, the department shall emphasize pedestrian
 51 | right-of-way when a driver is making a right turn at an
 52 | intersection.

53 | Section 4. Subsections (4) through (7) of section 322.56,
 54 | Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) through (8),
 55 | respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section,
 56 | to read:

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57 322.56 Contracts for administration of driver's license
58 examination.—

59 (4) All applicants for a learner's driver's license shall
60 have the ability to take the written examination required by s.
61 322.12 through a third-party provider. The department shall
62 contract with providers of approved traffic law and substance
63 abuse education courses to serve as third-party administrators
64 to conduct, on behalf of the department, knowledge tests under
65 this subsection.

66 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.