

By Senator Sobel

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to driver improvement schools and
3 education programs for driver's license applicants;
4 amending ss. 318.1451 and 322.095, F.S.; requiring the
5 curricula of such programs to include instruction on
6 the risks associated with using a handheld electronic
7 communication device while operating a motor vehicle;
8 providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
13 318.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 318.1451 Driver improvement schools.—

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

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

24 322.095 Traffic law and substance abuse education program
25 for driver's license applicants.—

26 (1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
27 must approve traffic law and substance abuse education courses
28 that must be completed by applicants for a Florida driver's
29 license. The curricula for the courses must provide instruction

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30 on the physiological and psychological consequences of the abuse
31 of alcohol and other drugs, the societal and economic costs of
32 alcohol and drug abuse, the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on
33 the driver of a motor vehicle, the risks associated with using a
34 handheld electronic communication device while operating a motor
35 vehicle, and the laws of this state relating to the operation of
36 a motor vehicle. All instructors teaching the courses shall be
37 certified by the department.

38 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.