

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senators Lynn and Bennett

596-02449-12

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to persons with disabilities;  
3       requiring law enforcement agencies to report certain  
4       criminal activity and enforcement of certain laws to  
5       the Department of Law Enforcement and the Department  
6       of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; amending ss.  
7       318.1451 and 322.0261, F.S.; requiring that, in  
8       determining whether to approve courses offered by  
9       driver improvement schools, the Department of Highway  
10      Safety and Motor Vehicles consider course content  
11      related to the study of traffic laws to assist legally  
12      blind and mobility-impaired persons; amending s.  
13      322.12, F.S.; providing requirements for examination  
14      questions pertaining to traffic laws relating to  
15      legally blind and mobility-impaired persons; amending  
16      s. 322.095, F.S.; requiring certain traffic law  
17      education programs to include the study of traffic  
18      laws to assist legally blind and mobility-impaired  
19      persons; amending s. 943.17, F.S.; requiring the basic  
20      skills course required in order for law enforcement  
21      officers to obtain certification to include the study  
22      of traffic laws to assist legally blind and mobility-  
23      impaired persons; amending s. 1003.48, F.S.; requiring  
24      driver education programs to include study of traffic  
25      laws to assist legally blind and mobility-impaired  
26      persons; providing an effective date.

27  
28   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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30           Section 1. Law enforcement reports.—Each month, each law  
31 enforcement agency in the state shall report crimes affecting  
32 persons with disabilities, legally blind persons, and persons  
33 who are mobility impaired to the Department of Law Enforcement  
34 and report its enforcement of s. 316.1301, Florida Statutes, and  
35 traffic laws to assist legally blind and mobility-impaired  
36 persons to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.  
37 The report to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
38 Vehicles shall include incidents of crashes involving legally  
39 blind persons and crashes involving mobility-impaired persons.  
40 The Department of Law Enforcement and the Department of Highway  
41 Safety and Motor Vehicles shall each provide procedures for the  
42 collection and maintenance of the reports in the same manner as  
43 other criminal activity and enforcement reports are collected  
44 and maintained by that department.

45           Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
46 318.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

47           318.1451 Driver improvement schools.—

48           (2) (a) In determining whether to approve the courses  
49 referenced in this section, the department shall consider course  
50 content designed to promote safety, driver awareness, crash  
51 avoidance techniques, and other factors or criteria to improve  
52 driver performance from a safety viewpoint. The department shall  
53 also consider course content that includes the study of s.  
54 316.1301 and traffic laws to assist legally blind and mobility-  
55 impaired persons.

56           Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 322.0261, Florida  
57 Statutes, is amended to read:

58           322.0261 Driver improvement course; requirement to maintain

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59 driving privileges; failure to complete; department approval of  
60 course.-

61 (5) In determining whether to approve a driver improvement  
62 course for the purposes of this section, the department shall  
63 consider course content designed to promote safety, driver  
64 awareness, crash avoidance techniques, and other factors or  
65 criteria to improve driver performance from a safety viewpoint.  
66 The department shall also consider course content that includes  
67 the study of s. 316.1301 and traffic laws to assist legally  
68 blind and mobility-impaired persons.

69 Section 4. Subsection (6) is added to section 322.12,  
70 Florida Statutes, to read:

71 322.12 Examination of applicants.-

72 (6) Each examination given for a Class E driver license or  
73 a commercial driver license under this section must include one  
74 question testing the applicant's knowledge of s. 316.1301 and  
75 traffic laws to assist legally blind and mobility-impaired  
76 persons. In developing questions under this subsection, the  
77 department shall emphasize pedestrian right of way when a driver  
78 is making a right turn at an intersection.

79 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 322.095, Florida  
80 Statutes, is amended to read:

81 322.095 Traffic law and substance abuse education program  
82 for driver ~~driver's~~ license applicants.-

83 (1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
84 must approve traffic law and substance abuse education courses  
85 that must be completed by applicants for a Florida driver  
86 ~~driver's~~ license. The curricula for the courses must provide  
87 instruction on the physiological and psychological consequences

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88 of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, the societal and  
89 economic costs of alcohol and drug abuse, the effects of alcohol  
90 and drug abuse on the driver of a motor vehicle, and the laws of  
91 this state relating to the operation of a motor vehicle. The  
92 curricula must also include the study of s. 316.1301 and traffic  
93 laws to assist legally blind and mobility-impaired persons. All  
94 instructors teaching the courses shall be certified by the  
95 department.

96 Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 943.17, Florida  
97 Statutes, is amended to read:

98 943.17 Basic recruit, advanced, and career development  
99 training programs; participation; cost; evaluation.—The  
100 commission shall, by rule, design, implement, maintain,  
101 evaluate, and revise entry requirements and job-related  
102 curricula and performance standards for basic recruit, advanced,  
103 and career development training programs and courses. The rules  
104 shall include, but are not limited to, a methodology to assess  
105 relevance of the subject matter to the job, student performance,  
106 and instructor competency.

107 (5) The commission, in consultation with the Florida  
108 Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, shall establish  
109 standards for basic and advanced training programs for law  
110 enforcement officers in the subjects of investigating and  
111 preventing violent crime. The curricula of every basic skills  
112 course required in order for law enforcement officers to obtain  
113 initial certification must include the study of s. 316.1301 and  
114 traffic laws to assist legally blind and mobility-impaired  
115 persons. After January 1, 1995, every basic skills course  
116 required in order for law enforcement officers to obtain initial

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117 certification must include training on violent crime prevention  
118 and investigations.

119 Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 1003.48, Florida  
120 Statutes, is amended to read:

121 1003.48 Instruction in operation of motor vehicles.—

122 (1) A course of study and instruction in the safe and  
123 lawful operation of a motor vehicle shall be made available by  
124 each district school board to students in the secondary schools  
125 in the state. As used in this section, the term "motor vehicle"  
126 shall have the same meaning as in s. 320.01(1)(a) and shall  
127 include motorcycles and mopeds. Instruction in motorcycle or  
128 moped operation may be limited to classroom instruction. The  
129 curricula of every course must include the study of s. 316.1301  
130 and traffic laws to assist legally blind and mobility-impaired  
131 persons. The course shall not be made a part of, or a substitute  
132 for, any of the minimum requirements for graduation.

133 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.