

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.

9  
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
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, 2012.