

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Sobel

596-01556-12

2012122c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to driver improvement schools and
3 education programs for driver license applicants;
4 amending ss. 318.1451, 322.0261, and 322.095, F.S.;
5 requiring the curricula of such programs to include
6 instruction on the risks associated with using a
7 handheld electronic communication device while
8 operating a motor vehicle; providing an effective
9 date.

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

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13 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
14 318.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 318.1451 Driver improvement schools.—

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

23 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 322.0261, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 322.0261 Driver improvement course; requirement to maintain
26 driving privileges; failure to complete; department approval of
27 course.—

28 (5) In determining whether to approve a driver improvement
29 course for the purposes of this section, the department shall

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30 consider course content designed to promote safety, driver
31 awareness, crash avoidance techniques, awareness of the risks
32 associated with using a handheld electronic communication device
33 while operating a motor vehicle, and other factors or criteria
34 to improve driver performance from a safety viewpoint.

35 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 322.095, Florida
36 Statutes, is amended to read:

37 322.095 Traffic law and substance abuse education program
38 for driver's license applicants.-

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

51 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.