

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5339

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Benson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires driver education programs to be inclusive of all students.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/29/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning driver education, supplementing Title 18A of  
2 the New Jersey Statutes, and amending P.L.1998, c.108.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. (New section) School districts shall establish a driver  
8 education program, including classroom and behind-the-wheel  
9 driver education, that is inclusive of all students, including students  
10 with autism spectrum disorder.

11

12 2. Section 8 of P.L.1998, c.108 (C.27:5F-41) is amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 8. a. The Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in  
15 the Department of Law and Public Safety, after consultation with  
16 the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
17 Commission, shall develop curriculum guidelines for use by  
18 teachers of approved classroom driver education courses. The  
19 course of instruction for approved courses shall be no less than 30  
20 hours in length and be designed to develop and instill the  
21 knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe operation and  
22 driving of motor vehicles. Defensive driving; highway courtesy;  
23 dangers of driving a vehicle in an aggressive manner, which shall  
24 include, but not be limited to, unexpectedly altering the speed of a  
25 vehicle, making improper or erratic traffic lane changes,  
26 disregarding traffic control devices, failing to yield the right of way,  
27 and following another vehicle too closely; accident avoidance;  
28 understanding and respect for the State's motor vehicle laws;  
29 techniques for the safe operation and proper maintenance of a  
30 vehicle, which shall include, but not be limited to, safety tips to  
31 avoid carbon monoxide poisoning from motor vehicles; insurance  
32 fraud; operating a motor vehicle in a manner that safely shares the  
33 roadway with pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, riders of motorized-  
34 scooters, and other non-motorized vehicles, which shall include, but  
35 not be limited to, passing a cyclist on the roadway, recognizing  
36 bicycle lanes, navigating intersections with pedestrians and cyclists,  
37 and exiting a vehicle without endangering pedestrians and cyclists;  
38 and State requirements for and benefits of maintaining automobile  
39 insurance shall be emphasized. The incorporation of these  
40 curriculum guidelines in these classroom courses and the use of  
41 related instructional materials shall be a requirement for approval of  
42 the course by the chief administrator. The curriculum shall be  
43 developed in a manner that allows all students to be included in the  
44 driver education program, including students diagnosed with autism  
45 spectrum disorder.

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1       b. The Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, in  
2 consultation with the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor  
3 Vehicle Commission, shall produce an informational brochure for  
4 parents and guardians of beginning drivers under the age of 18  
5 years. The commission shall ensure that the parents or guardians of  
6 a permit holder receive these brochures at the time a permit is  
7 issued to a beginning driver. The brochures shall include, but not be  
8 limited to, the following information:

9       (1) Setting an example for the beginning driver;

10       (2) Accident and fatality statistics about beginning drivers;

11       (3) Causes of accidents among beginning drivers;

12       (4) The need to supervise vehicle operation by a beginning  
13 driver;

14       (5) Methods to coach a beginning driver on how to reduce  
15 accidents;

16       (6) A description of the graduated driver's license program;

17       (7) Benefits of classroom and behind-the-wheel driver education  
18 under the direction of State certified or licensed driving instructors,  
19 as the case may be;

20       (8) The dangers of driving a vehicle in an aggressive manner,  
21 which shall include, but not be limited to, unexpectedly altering the  
22 speed of a vehicle, making improper or erratic traffic lane changes,  
23 disregarding traffic control devices, failing to yield the right of way,  
24 and following another vehicle too closely;

25       (9) The dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning from motor  
26 vehicles and techniques for the safe operation and proper  
27 maintenance of a vehicle, which shall include, but not be limited to,  
28 safety tips to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning from motor  
29 vehicles; and

30       (10) Maintaining an awareness of operating a motor vehicle in a  
31 manner that safely shares the roadway with pedestrians, cyclists,  
32 skaters, riders of motorized-scooters, and other non-motorized  
33 vehicles, which shall include, but not be limited to, passing a cyclist  
34 on the roadway, recognizing bicycle lanes, navigating intersections  
35 with pedestrians and cyclists, and exiting a vehicle without  
36 endangering pedestrians and cyclists.

37 (cf: P.L.2017, c.374, s.2)

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39       3. Section 10 of P.L.1998, c.108 (C.27:5F-43) is amended to  
40 read as follows:

41       10. a. The Director of the Office of Highway Traffic Safety  
42 shall make recommendations to the Chief Administrator of the New  
43 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission with respect to rules and  
44 regulations promulgated under P.L.1998, c.108 including, but not  
45 limited to, the development of uniform curriculum guidelines for  
46 approved classroom and behind-the-wheel driver education.

47       b. The course of instruction for behind-the-wheel driver  
48 education shall be designed to develop the skills necessary for the

1 safe and lawful operation of a motor vehicle. Defensive driving,  
2 highway courtesy, appropriate driving behavior and attitudes,  
3 accident avoidance, safe passing and lane changing, and a general  
4 understanding of and respect for the State's motor vehicle laws shall  
5 be emphasized. The course of instruction for behind-the-wheel  
6 driver education shall be designed in a manner that allows all  
7 students to be included in the driver education program, including  
8 students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

9 (cf: P.L.2010, c.87, s.22)

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11 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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16 This bill requires that classroom and behind-the-wheel driver  
17 education programs be inclusive of all students, including students  
18 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The bill requires school  
19 districts to establish classroom and behind-the-wheel driver  
20 education programs that are inclusive of all students. The bill also  
21 requires that the curriculum for classroom driver education courses  
22 and the behind-the-wheel driver education be developed by the  
23 Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety be developed in  
24 a manner that allows all students to be included in the program.