

SENATE, No. 3435

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires driver education programs to be inclusive of all students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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)

38
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)

10
11 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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14 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.