

By: Goolsby

H.B. No. 2628

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to education and examination requirements for the issuance of a driver's license.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 521.161, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) The director shall waive the highway sign and traffic law parts of the examination required by Subsection (b) for an applicant who submits to the department a driver education certificate issued under Chapter 1001, Education Code, that states the applicant has completed and passed the highway sign and traffic law parts of the examination under Section 521.1655.

SECTION 2. Section 521.1655(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A driver education school licensed under Chapter 1001, Education Code, [~~the Texas Driver and Traffic Safety Education Act (Article 4413(29c), Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)~~] may administer to a student of that school the [~~vision~~]7 highway sign[7] and traffic law parts of the examination required by Section 521.161 if the student:

(1) is 15 years of age or older, but under 18 years of age, and has completed and passed six hours of classroom instruction of a comprehensive driver education course approved under Chapter 1001, Education Code; or

1 (2) is 18 years of age or older and has completed and
2 passed a six-hour traffic law classroom driver education course
3 approved under Chapter 1001, Education Code.

4 SECTION 3. Section 1001.101, Education Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 1001.101. DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE CURRICULUM AND
7 TEXTBOOKS. (a) The commissioner by rule shall establish the
8 curriculum and designate the textbooks to be used in:

9 (1) a comprehensive driver education course for minors
10 and adults; and

11 (2) a traffic law classroom driver education course
12 for adults.

13 (b) A driver education course under Subsection (a)(2) must:

14 (1) be a six-hour course; and

15 (2) include instruction in the following:

16 (A) driver's license requirements;

17 (B) vehicle inspection and registration;

18 (C) financial responsibility;

19 (D) highway signs that regulate, warn, or direct
20 traffic; and

21 (E) the traffic laws of this state, including the
22 laws and penalties concerning driving while intoxicated or driving
23 under the influence of alcohol.

24 (c) An approved driving safety course does not qualify as a
25 course under Subsection (a)(2).

26 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply to an
27 application for the issuance of a driver's license filed on or after

1 the effective date of this Act. An application for the issuance of
2 a driver's license filed before the effective date of this Act is
3 governed by the law in effect on the date of the filing, and that law
4 is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.