

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to driver training and safety courses for commercial driver's license recipients.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 1001, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.109 to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.109. SAFE DRIVERS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PERSONS SEEKING COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE. (a) The agency shall establish and administer a safe drivers training program for persons seeking to obtain a commercial driver's license.

(b) The curriculum for a driver education course that offers training under the program must:

(1) require a student to meet the minimum requirements for issuance of a commercial driver's license established under Chapter 522, Transportation Code;

(2) consist of a five-week training period before a student is issued a commercial driver's license;

(3) include on-the-job, behind-the-wheel training specific to the class of vehicle the student will be licensed to drive; and

(4) be accredited by the Professional Truck Driver Institute.

(c) To be admitted to the program, a person must submit:

(1) a letter from a sponsor carrier trucking company

1 stating that the company has committed to hire the person on
2 completion of the program; or

3 (2) documentation that the person is a military
4 veteran.

5 (d) The agency shall award a grant to each person admitted
6 to the program. A person awarded a grant under this subsection who
7 does not complete the program is liable to the agency for the amount
8 of the grant. For purposes of this subsection, the agency shall
9 develop an agreement that includes a promissory note to establish
10 the grant recipient's promise to repay the amount of the grant if
11 the person does not complete the program.

12 (e) The agency may accept gifts, grants, and donations from
13 any source for the purposes of the program. The agency shall seek
14 private, local, and federal funding to support the establishment
15 and administration of the program.

16 (f) The agency may adopt rules as necessary for the
17 administration of this section. The rules shall provide for a
18 person to be forgiven from repayment of a grant under Subsection (d)
19 in event of a hardship.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.