

By: Fletcher

H.B. No. 3483

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to requirements for a driver education course and the  
3 eligibility of persons under 18 years of age to hold a driver's  
4 license or operate a motor vehicle.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 1001.101, Education Code, as amended by  
7 Chapters 1253 (H.B. 339) and 1413 (S.B. 1317), Acts of the 81st  
8 Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, is reenacted and amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 1001.101. ADULT AND MINOR DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE  
11 CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOKS. (a) The commissioner by rule shall  
12 establish or approve the curriculum and designate the textbooks to  
13 be used in a driver education course for minors and adults,  
14 including a driver education course conducted by a school district,  
15 driver education school, or parent or other individual under  
16 Section 521.205, Transportation Code.

17 (b) A driver education course must require the student to  
18 complete:

19 (1) 7 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction in the  
20 presence of a person who holds a driver education instructor  
21 license or who meets the requirements imposed under Section  
22 521.205, Transportation Code;

23 (2) 7 hours of observation instruction in the presence  
24 of a person who holds a driver education instructor license or who

1 meets the requirements imposed under Section 521.205,  
2 Transportation Code; and

3 (3) 30 [~~20~~] hours of behind-the-wheel instruction,  
4 including at least 10 hours of instruction that takes place at  
5 night, in the presence of an adult who meets the requirements of  
6 Section 521.222(d)(2), Transportation Code.

7 SECTION 2. Section 545.424(a-1), Transportation Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (a-1) A person under 18 years of age may not operate a motor  
10 vehicle [~~during the 12-month period following issuance of an~~  
11 ~~original Class A, B, or C driver's license to the person~~]:

12 (1) after midnight and before 5 a.m. unless the  
13 operation of the vehicle is necessary for the operator to attend or  
14 participate in employment or a school-related activity or because  
15 of a medical emergency; or

16 (2) with more than one passenger in the vehicle under  
17 21 years of age who is not a family member.

18 SECTION 3. The change in law made by Section 1001.101(b),  
19 Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a  
20 driver education course that begins on or after the effective date  
21 of this Act. A course that begins before the effective date of this  
22 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the course began,  
23 and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.