

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1051

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the accommodation of a deaf or hard of hearing student in driver education; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 1001, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.059 to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.059. DEPARTMENT DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE FOR DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS. (a) The department shall:

(1) create a driver education course for minors and adults that presents the course curriculum in American Sign Language; and

(2) make the course described by Subdivision (1) available on the department's Internet website.

(b) The department may collaborate with another state agency to create the course.

(c) The commission by rule shall establish a fee for the course. The fee established under this section:

(1) is in addition to a fee charged for a certificate for the course; and

(2) must be in an amount that is:

(A) not more than an amount necessary to cover the cost of creating and administering the course; and

(B) not more than the average cost of an online driver education course provided in this state, as determined by

1 the commission.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 1001, Education Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 1001.1016 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 1001.1016. ACCOMMODATION FOR DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING
5 STUDENTS. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Deaf" means a hearing loss of such severity that
7 an individual must depend on visual methods to communicate.

8 (2) "Hard of hearing" means a loss of hearing function
9 to an individual such that the individual:

10 (A) relies on residual hearing; and

11 (B) may depend on visual methods to communicate.

12 (b) The commission by rule shall require a driver education
13 school providing a driver education course to:

14 (1) in the manner described by the Americans with
15 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.), make
16 reasonable modifications and provide aids and services when
17 providing the classroom portion of the course that are necessary to
18 ensure that a student who is deaf or hard of hearing may fully
19 participate in the course; and

20 (2) provide to the department the school's plan for
21 complying with the rules adopted under this section as a condition
22 of obtaining a license under Section 1001.211 or renewing a license
23 under Section 1001.303.

24 (c) The rules adopted under Subsection (b) must allow a
25 driver education school to comply with the requirements of this
26 section by playing a video that presents the classroom portion of
27 the driver education course in a manner that complies with the

1 requirements of this section.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.