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SENATE BILL NO. 554

Offered January 8, 2014

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-1702 of the Code of Virginia, relating to approval of driver education instructors by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Patron—Marsden

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-1702 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 46.2-1702. Certification of driver education courses by Commissioner.**

The Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commissioner shall have the authority to approve as a driver education course satisfying the requirements of § 46.2-334 any course which is offered by any driver training school licensed under the provisions of this chapter if he finds that the course is of comparable content and quality to that offered in the Commonwealth's public schools. In making such finding, the Commissioner shall not require that the instructors of any driver training school meet the certification requirements of teachers in the Commonwealth's public schools.

Any institution of higher education certified to operate in the Commonwealth by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall have the authority to offer the courses required by the Virginia Board of Education to become a certified driver education instructor in Virginia on a not-for-credit basis so long as the courses include the same content and curriculum required by the Department of Education, enabling individuals who complete those courses to then teach driver's education in Virginia upon official certification by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Virginia Department of Education shall provide the curriculum, content, and other information regarding the courses required to become certified driver education instructors in Virginia to any institution of higher education certified to operate in the Commonwealth to enable it to provide those courses. The content of each course must be accurate and rigorous and must meet the requirements for the Department of Education's Curriculum and Administrative Guide for Driver's Education, which includes the Board of Education's standards of learning.

The Commissioner shall have authority to approve any driver education course offered by any Class A licensee if he finds the course meets the requirements for such courses as set forth in this chapter and as otherwise established by the Department. Driver education courses offered by any Class B licensee shall be based on the driver education curriculum currently approved by the Department of Education and the Department.

The Commissioner may accept 20 years' service with the Virginia Department of State Police by a person who retired or resigned while in good standing from such Department in lieu of requirements established by the Department of Education for instructor qualification.

INTRODUCED

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