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**HOUSE BILL NO. 748**

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 12, 2016

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-1702 of the Code of Virginia, relating to certification of online driver education courses.*

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Patrons—Greason and Keam

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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.**

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 community college within the Virginia Community College System 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 driver education training schools 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 community college within the Virginia Community College System. 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.

*Except for schools in the Commonwealth's public school system, only those driver training schools licensed under the provisions of this chapter that are authorized to administer behind-the-wheel examinations shall be authorized to administer online driver education courses. The content and quality of such online courses shall be comparable to that of courses offered in the Commonwealth's public schools.*

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. Class A licensees shall not be permitted to administer knowledge or behind-the-wheel examinations. 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

HB748