**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTIONS 56‑1‑175 AND 56‑1‑180, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CONDITIONAL DRIVER’S LICENSE AND SPECIAL RESTRICTED DRIVER’S LICENSE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2009, A PERSON WHO IS ISSUED ONE OF THESE FORMS OF DRIVER’S LICENSES MUST HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A TEEN DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE THAT IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 56‑1‑175(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) The Department of Motor Vehicles may issue a conditional driver’s license to a person who is at least fifteen years of age and less than sixteen years of age, who has:

(1) held a beginner’s permit for at least one hundred eighty days;

(2) passed a driver’s education course as defined in subsection (E);

(3) completed at least forty hours of driving practice, including at least ten hours of driving practice during darkness, supervised by the person’s licensed parent or guardian;

(4) passed successfully the road tests or other requirements the department may prescribe; ~~and~~

(5) satisfied the school attendance requirement contained in Section 56‑1‑176~~.~~; and

(6) after December 31, 2009, successfully completed a teen defensivedriving course that has been approved by the Department of Public Safety. Ateen defensive driving course taught by an entity subject to licensing underChapter 23 of Title 56 must be separate and distinct from the defensivedriving courses described in Sections 56‑1‑770 and 56‑23‑60. Entitiesexempted from Chapter 23 of Title 56 by Section 56‑23‑20 may incorporate theteen defensive driving course into their overall instructional classes.

A defensive driving course, as required by subsection (6), may only be taught in a public school if the course is taught after regular school hours and is available to the public.”

SECTION 2. Section 56‑1‑180(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) The Department of Motor Vehicles may issue a special restricted driver’s license to a person who is at least sixteen years of age and less than seventeen years of age, who has:

(1) held a beginner’s permit for at least one hundred eighty days;

(2) passed a driver’s education course as defined in subsection (F);

(3) completed at least forty hours of driving practice, including at least ten hours of driving practice during darkness, supervised by the person’s licensed parent or guardian;

(4) passed successfully the road test or other requirements the department may prescribe; ~~and~~

(5) satisfied the school attendance requirement contained in Section 56‑1‑176~~.~~; and

(6) after December 31, 2009, successfully completed a teen defensivedriving course that has been approved by the Department of Public Safety. Ateen defensive driving course taught by an entity subject to licensing underChapter 23 of Title 56 must be separate and distinct from the defensivedriving courses described in Sections 56‑1‑770 and 56‑23‑60. Entitiesexempted from Chapter 23 of Title 56 by Section 56‑23‑20 may incorporate theteen defensive driving course into their overall instructional classes.

A defensive driving course, as required by subsection (6), may only be taught in a public school if the course is taught after regular school hours and is available to the public.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and upon the Department of Public Safety certifying that the defensive driving course has been implemented in every county in this State.

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