**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 22 TO TITLE 56 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT SUPPLEMENTAL DRIVER TRAINING FOR SAFE OPERATION AROUND LARGE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES MUST BE INCLUDED IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DRIVING EDUCATION/TRAINING COURSES, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES SHALL INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL RELATIVE TO STANDARD PASSENGER VEHICLE OPERATION ON THE ROAD WITH COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE DRIVER SAFETY MANUAL AND OTHER MEDIUM, TO PROVIDE THAT A HOLDER OF A COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF CERTAIN MOVING VIOLATIONS MUST COMPLETE AN ONLINE REMEDIAL TRAINING COURSE, TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY‑FIVE WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF CERTAIN MOVING VIOLATIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO A COLLISION INVOLVING CERTAIN COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES MUST COMPLETE AN ONLINE REMEDIAL TRAINING COURSE, TO PROVIDE THAT MOTOR CARRIERS THAT ARE COVERED BY THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ACT NEW ENTRANT PROGRAM MUST COMPLETE A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES APPROVED TRAINING COURSE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THESE COURSES SHOULD BE OFFERED THROUGH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS EXPERTISE IN COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY.

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

SECTION 1. Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“CHAPTER 22

Supplemental Driver Training For Safe Operation Around Large Commercial Vehicles

Section 56‑22‑10. Provided that all necessary educational content is provided free of charge to the training schools by a nonprofit organization or organizations with expertise in commercial motor vehicle safety, all public and private driver education/training courses offered in this State shall provide:

(1) training on the limitations of large trucks and how to drive safely near or around them;

(2) essential education to all drivers on truck braking capabilities and blind spots and how to avoid driving in a truck’s blind spot;

(3) training to new drivers ensuring that they develop safe driving habits early; and

(4) education to new drivers on techniques to safely interact with large trucks including:

(a) safe following distances;

(b) proper merging;

(c) defensive driving; and

(d) avoiding blind spots.

Both the Department of Public Safety and Department of Motor Vehicles must approve an organization, or organizations, as having sufficient expertise in commercial motor vehicle safety to provide educational content and must sanction the education content utilized.

Section 56‑22‑20. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall incorporate, as soon as practical, more comprehensive safety educational material relative to standard passenger vehicle operation on the road with, and the operational nature of, commercial motor vehicles in its driver safety manual and any other medium, providedall necessary educational content is provided free of charge to the department by a nonprofit organization with expertise in commercial motor vehicle safety.

Section 56‑22‑30. Completion of a Department of Public Safety approved online remedial training course is required for all holders of a Department of Motor Vehicle issued commercial driver’s license who are convicted of a moving violation which contributed to an accident as defined in 49 C.F.R. Part 390.5, within ninety days of the conviction.

Section 56‑22‑40. Completion of a Department of Public Safety approved online remedial training course is required for all South Carolina drivers under twenty‑five years of age who are convicted of a moving violation which contributed to a collision involving a commercial motor vehicle registered in excess of 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, within one hundred twenty days of conviction. A driver is only required to successfully complete this course once.

Section 56‑22‑50. Completion of a Department of Public Safety and the Department of Motor Vehicles approved training course is required for any South Carolina‑based motor carriers who fall under the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act New Entrant program prior to being granted operating authority or a South Carolina or United States Department of Transportation motor carrier number. This course must include training on subject matter relative to compliance with vehicle and driver safety, size and weight, registration and tax laws, rules, and regulations. A driver is only required to successfully complete this course once.

Section 56‑22‑60. The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Motor Vehicles must approve the course and content prior to it being offered to the public, and the departments must make every reasonable effort to utilize a South Carolina‑based nonprofit organization to provide training. Publicly supported educational institutions are encouraged to assist citizens with access to a computer with online capabilities in order to facilitate compliance with the remedial training required in Section 56‑22‑40. To assist a person who may not have access to online remedial training, the Department of Public Safety may require the entity offering the training to conduct periodic instructor‑led courses at locations around the State.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect one hundred eighty days subsequent to approval by the Governor.

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