

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1729

To establish driver education curriculum for teenage drivers and to provide grants to States and tribal governments to carry out driver education training for licensed teenage drivers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish driver education curriculum for teenage drivers and to provide grants to States and tribal governments to carry out driver education training for licensed teenage drivers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONTINUED DRIVER EDUCATION COURSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) Automobile crashes are the leading cause of
7 death of teenagers in the United States.

1 (2) Every year, more than 5,000 teenagers die
2 from fatal injuries suffered in automobile accidents
3 in the United States and an additional 400,000
4 teenage drivers are seriously injured.

5 (3) According to the American Automobile As-
6 sociation, research on the effectiveness of driver edu-
7 cation indicates that graduates of driver education
8 programs have 50 percent fewer accidents per capita
9 than drivers who have not received driver education.

10 (b) DEFINED TERM.—In this Act, the term “teen-
11 ager” means any person who is at least 16 years of age
12 and younger than 20 years of age.

13 (c) CONTINUED DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM.—
14 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment
15 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall develop
16 curriculum for continued driver education courses for
17 teenagers, which shall include classroom and driving in-
18 struction.

19 (d) CONTINUED DRIVER EDUCATION TRAINING
20 GRANTS.—

21 (1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 90
22 days after the development of curriculum under sub-
23 section (c), the Secretary of Transportation shall es-
24 tablish a program to award grants to States and

1 tribal governments to provide continued driver train-
2 ing courses for teenagers who are licensed drivers.

3 (2) APPLICATION.—A State or tribal govern-
4 ment desiring a grant under this subsection shall
5 submit an application that describes—

6 (A) the individual who will teach the driver
7 training course;

8 (B) the locations at which the course will
9 be taught; and

10 (C) how the teaching methods that will be
11 used in the course are consistent with the cur-
12 riculum developed by the Secretary under sub-
13 section (c).

14 (3) PRIORITY.—In approving applications for
15 grants submitted under paragraph (2), the Secretary
16 shall give priority to States and tribal governments
17 that—

18 (A) maximize the participation of teenage
19 drivers in the proposed driver training course;
20 and

21 (B) supplement the grant funds received
22 under this subsection with additional Federal,
23 State, tribal government, or private resources to
24 carry out the driver training course.

1 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as may be necessary to carry out the grant program
4 authorized under this subsection.

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