

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2027

To amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to improve national highway traffic safety through improved motor vehicle driver education and licensing programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 26, 2004

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

A BILL

To amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to improve national highway traffic safety through improved motor vehicle driver education and licensing programs, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Driver Education and
5 Licensing Improvement Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR SUPPORT OF ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED**
2 **DRIVING COUNTERMEASURES.**

3 (a) REVISED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Sub-
4 paragraph (D) of section 410(b)(1) of title 23, United
5 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 “(D) GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM.—A
7 multiple-stage graduated licensing system for
8 young drivers that, at a minimum, authorizes
9 the issuance of an initial license or learner’s
10 permit to a driver no earlier than the driver’s
11 16th birthday, makes it unlawful for a person
12 under age 21 to operate a motor vehicle with a
13 blood alcohol concentration of .02 percent or
14 greater, provides for a learning stage of at least
15 six months and an intermediate stage of at
16 least 6 months, and applies the following re-
17 strictions and features to such stages and to
18 such other stage or stages as may be provided
19 under State law:

20 “(i) A restriction that no more than 2
21 passengers may occupy a vehicle while it is
22 being operated by a young driver.

23 “(ii) Nighttime driving restrictions
24 applicable, at a minimum, during the
25 hours between 10:00 o’clock post meridiem
26 and 5:00 o’clock ante meridiem.

1 “(iii) Special penalties (including
2 delays in progression through the stages of
3 the graduated licensing system) for viola-
4 tions of restrictions under the system and
5 violations of other State laws relating to
6 operation of motor vehicles.”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
8 subsection (a) shall take effect one year after the date of
9 the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL OFFICE OF DRIVER TRAINING.**

11 Section 105 of title 49, United States Code, is
12 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(f)(1) There is a National Office of Driver Training
15 in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

16 “(2) The head of the National Office of Driver Train-
17 ing is the Director.

18 “(3) The functions of the National Office of Driver
19 Training are as follows:

20 “(A) To provide States with services for coordi-
21 nating the motor vehicle driver training and licens-
22 ing programs of the States.

23 “(B) To develop and make available to the
24 States a recommended motor vehicle driver edu-
25 cation and licensing curriculum that incorporates the

1 best practices in driver education and licensing, and
2 to carry out such research (pursuant to cooperative
3 agreements or otherwise) and undertake such other
4 activities as the Director determines appropriate to
5 develop and, on an ongoing basis, improve the rec-
6 ommended curriculum.

7 “(C) To provide States with technical assist-
8 ance for the implementation of the motor vehicle
9 driver education and licensing curriculum rec-
10 ommended under subparagraph (B).

11 “(D) To develop and recommend to the States
12 methods for harmonizing the presentation of motor
13 vehicle driver education and licensing with the re-
14 quirements of multistage graduated licensing sys-
15 tems, including systems described in section
16 410(b)(1)(D) of title 23.

17 “(E) To provide States with financial assistance
18 under section 30201 of this title for—

19 “(i) the implementation of the motor vehi-
20 cle driver education and licensing curriculum
21 recommended under subparagraph (B);

22 “(ii) the establishment or improved admin-
23 istration of multistage graduated licensing sys-
24 tems; and

1 “(iii) the support of other improvements in
 2 motor vehicle driver education and licensing
 3 programs.

4 “(F) To perform such other functions relating
 5 to motor vehicle driver education or licensing as the
 6 Secretary may require.”.

7 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DRIVER**
 8 **EDUCATION AND LICENSING.**

9 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Part A of subtitle VI of title 49,
 10 United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter
 11 301 the following new chapter:

12 **“CHAPTER 302—OTHER DRIVER**
 13 **PROGRAMS**

“Sec.

“30201. Driver education and licensing: grant assistance.

14 **“§ 30201. Driver education and licensing: grant assist-**
 15 **ance**

16 “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

17 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry
 18 out a program to provide States, by grant, with fi-
 19 nancial assistance to support the improvement of
 20 motor vehicle driver education programs and the es-
 21 tablishment and improved administration of grad-
 22 uated licensing systems, including systems described
 23 in section 410(b)(1)(D) of title 23.

1 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE.—The Secretary
2 shall administer the program under this section
3 through the Director of the National Office of Driver
4 Training.

5 “(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

6 “(1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pre-
7 scribe in regulations the eligibility requirements, ap-
8 plication and approval procedures and standards,
9 and authorized uses of grant proceeds for the grant
10 program under this section. The regulations shall, at
11 a minimum, authorize use of grant proceeds for the
12 following activities:

13 “(A) Quality assurance testing.

14 “(B) Improvement of motor vehicle driver
15 education curricula.

16 “(C) Training of instructors for motor ve-
17 hicle driver education programs.

18 “(D) Monitoring and evaluation of the
19 motor vehicle driver performance of graduates
20 of motor vehicle driver education programs.

21 “(E) Testing and evaluation of motor vehi-
22 cle driver performance.

23 “(F) Public education and outreach re-
24 garding motor vehicle driver education and li-
25 censing.

1 “(G) Improvements with respect to State
2 graduated licensing programs, as well as related
3 enforcement activities.

4 “(2) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In pre-
5 scribing the regulations, the Secretary shall consult
6 with the following:

7 “(A) The Administrator of the National
8 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

9 “(B) The heads of such other departments
10 and agencies of the United States as the Sec-
11 retary considers appropriate on the basis of rel-
12 evant interests or expertise.

13 “(C) Appropriate officials of the govern-
14 ments of States and political subdivisions of
15 States.

16 “(D) Representatives of private sector or-
17 ganizations recognized for relevant expertise.

18 “(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The maximum
19 amount of a grant of financial assistance for a program,
20 project, or activity under this section may not exceed 75
21 percent of the total cost of such program, project, or activ-
22 ity.”.

23 (b) TIME FOR PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—
24 The Secretary of Transportation shall promulgate the reg-
25 ulations under section 30201(b) of title 49, United States

1 Code (as added by subsection (a)), not later than October
2 1, 2004.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds
4 are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out section
5 30201(b) of title 49, United States Code (as added by sub-
6 section (a)), for fiscal years and in amounts as follows:

7 (1) For fiscal year 2005, \$20,000,000.

8 (2) For fiscal year 2006, \$22,000,000.

9 (3) For fiscal year 2007, \$24,000,000.

10 (4) For fiscal year 2008, \$26,000,000.

11 (5) For fiscal year 2009, \$28,000,000.

12 (6) For fiscal year 2010, \$30,000,000.

13 **SEC. 5. GRANT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS OF**
14 **ORGAN DONATION THROUGH DRIVER LI-**
15 **CENSING PROGRAMS.**

16 (a) AUTHORITY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 302 of title 49,
18 United States Code (as added by section 4), is
19 amended by adding at the end the following new sec-
20 tion:

21 **“SEC. 30202. ORGAN DONATION THROUGH DRIVER LICENS-**
22 **ING: GRANT ASSISTANCE.**

23 “(a) AUTHORITY.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
25 out a program to provide eligible recipients, by

1 grant, with financial assistance to carry out cam-
2 paigns to increase public awareness of, and training
3 on, authority and procedures under State law to pro-
4 vide for the donation of organs through a declara-
5 tion recorded on a motor vehicle driver license.

6 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE.—The Secretary
7 shall administer the program under this section
8 through the Director of the National Office of Driv-
9 er Training.

10 “(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

11 “(1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pre-
12 scribe in regulations the eligibility requirements, ap-
13 plication and approval procedures and standards,
14 and authorized uses of grant proceeds for the grant
15 program under this section.

16 “(2) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In pre-
17 scribing the regulations, the Secretary shall consult
18 with the following:

19 “(A) The Administrator of the National
20 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

21 “(B) The heads of such other departments
22 and agencies of the United States as the Sec-
23 retary considers appropriate on the basis of rel-
24 evant interests or expertise.

1 “(C) Appropriate officials of the govern-
 2 ments of States and political subdivisions of
 3 States.

4 “(D) Representatives of private sector or-
 5 ganizations recognized for relevant expertise.”.

6 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 7 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 8 by adding at the end the following new item:

“30202. Organ donation through driver licensing: grant assistance.”.

9 (b) TIME FOR PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—
 10 The Secretary of Transportation shall promulgate the reg-
 11 ulations under section 30202(b) of title 49, United States
 12 Code (as added by subsection (a)), not later than October
 13 1, 2004.

14 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds
 15 are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out section
 16 30201(b) of title 49, United States Code (as added by sub-
 17 section (a)), for fiscal years and in amounts as follows:

18 (1) For fiscal year 2005, \$4,000,000.

19 (2) For fiscal year 2006, \$4,000,000.

20 (3) For fiscal year 2007, \$4,000,000.

21 (4) For fiscal year 2008, \$4,000,000.

22 (5) For fiscal year 2009, \$4,000,000.

23 (6) For fiscal year 2010, \$4,000,000.

1 **SEC. 6. STUDY OF NATIONAL DRIVER EDUCATION STAND-**
2 **ARDS.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY.—The Secretary of
4 Transportation shall carry out a study to determine
5 whether the establishment and imposition of nationwide
6 minimum standards of motor vehicle driver education
7 would improve national highway traffic safety.

8 (b) TIME FOR COMPLETION OF STUDY.—The Sec-
9 retary shall complete the study not later than two years
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 (c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall publish a report
12 on the results of the study under this section not later
13 than 2 years after the study is completed.

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