

House Bill 1424

By: Representatives Coan of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Rice of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Millar of the 79<sup>th</sup>, and Howard of the 121<sup>st</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 9 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 regulation of insurance rates, so as to provide that certain Internet driver improvement  
3 programs qualify as the driving courses that must be completed in order to be eligible for  
4 a reduction in premiums for certain private passenger motor vehicle insurance; to provide for  
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 9 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of  
9 insurance rates, is amended by revising Code Section 33-9-42, relating to the reduction of  
10 premiums for motor vehicle liability, first-party medical, and collision coverages for certain  
11 named drivers, as follows:

12 "33-9-42.

13 (a) For each personal or family-type policy of private passenger motor vehicle insurance  
14 issued or issued for delivery in this state, there shall be offered by the insurer a reduction  
15 of not less than 10 percent in premiums for motor vehicle liability, first-party medical, and  
16 collision coverages to the policyholder if all named drivers, as listed or who should be  
17 listed on the policy application or provided in information subsequent to such application,  
18 of each motor vehicle covered by such policy satisfy the requirements of subsection (b) or  
19 subsection (c), as applicable, of this Code section.

20 (b) Reductions in premiums shall be available if all named drivers who are 25 years of age  
21 or older:

22 (1) Have committed no traffic offenses for the prior three years or since the date of  
23 licensure, whichever is shorter;

24 (2) Have had no claims based on fault against an insurer for the prior three years; and

25 (3) Complete one of the following types of driving courses:

- 26 (A) A course in defensive driving of not less than six hours from a driver improvement  
27 clinic or commercial or noncommercial driving school approved by and under the  
28 jurisdiction of the Department of Driver Services;
- 29 (B) An emergency vehicles operations course at the Georgia Public Safety Training  
30 Center;
- 31 (C) A course in defensive driving of not less than six hours from a driver improvement  
32 program which is administered by a nonprofit organization such as the American  
33 Association of Retired People, the American Automobile Association, the National  
34 Safety Council, or a comparable organization and which meets the standards  
35 promulgated by the Department of Driver Services pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
36 Code section; or
- 37 (D) A course in defensive driving of not less than six hours offered by an employer to  
38 its employees and their immediate families, which course has been approved by the  
39 Department of Driver Services.
- 40 (c) Reductions in premiums shall be available if all named drivers who are under 25 years  
41 of age:
- 42 (1) Have committed no traffic offenses for the prior three years or since the date of  
43 licensure, whichever is shorter;
- 44 (2) Have had no claims based on fault against an insurer for the prior three years; and
- 45 (3) Complete a preparatory course offered to new drivers of not less than 30 hours of  
46 classroom training and not less than six hours of practical training by a driver's training  
47 school approved by and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Driver Services or  
48 by an accredited secondary school, junior college, or college.
- 49 (d) Upon completion of one of the driving courses specified in paragraph (3) of subsection  
50 (b) or paragraph (3) of subsection (c), as applicable, of this Code section by each named  
51 driver, eligibility for reductions in premiums for such policy shall continue for a period of  
52 three years, provided any named driver under such policy does not commit a traffic offense  
53 or have a claim against the policy based on any such driver's fault.
- 54 (e) The Department of Driver Services shall assure through the supervision of driver  
55 improvement clinics, emergency vehicles operations courses, driver improvement  
56 programs administered by nonprofit organizations, and commercial or noncommercial  
57 driving schools approved by the Department of Driver Services that defensive driving  
58 courses shall be available and accessible wherever practicable as determined by the  
59 department to licensed drivers throughout the state.
- 60 (f) Each insurer providing premium discounts under this Code section shall provide, upon  
61 the request of the Commissioner, information regarding the amount of such discounts in  
62 a form acceptable to the Commissioner.

63 (g) The power of supervision granted to the Department of Driver Services over driver  
64 improvement programs administered by nonprofit organizations under this Code section  
65 shall be limited to the establishment of minimum standards and requirements relative to the  
66 content of specific courses offered by such programs and relative to investigation and  
67 resolution of any complaints directed towards the content or operation of any course by a  
68 person enrolled in such course. The Department of Driver Services may adopt rules and  
69 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection. The Department of  
70 Driver Services shall not require a nonprofit organization to obtain a license or permit or  
71 to pay a fee in order to administer a driver improvement program in the state. The  
72 Department of Driver Services shall not require a commercial driving school licensed by  
73 such department to obtain an additional license to teach a defensive driving course, as  
74 described in subparagraph (b)(3)(A) or paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of this Code section,  
75 at any location in this state.

76 (h) Nothing in this Code section shall prevent an insurer from offering the reduction in  
77 premium specified in subsection (a) of this Code section to a driver who does not meet all  
78 of the requirements of subsection (b) or subsection (c), as applicable, of this Code section.

79 (i) Nothing in this Code section shall prevent a course offered by a driver improvement  
80 program administered by a nonprofit organization under this Code section from being  
81 conducted over the Internet, provided such a course meets the minimum standards and the  
82 requirements relative to the content of such courses established by the Department of  
83 Driver Services."

84 **SECTION 2.**

85 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.