

House Bill 1036

By: Representatives Rice of the 51st and Powell of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the restoration of licenses to persons completing defensive driving courses, so as
3 to authorize the Department of Driver Services to implement a pilot program to measure the
4 effectiveness and security of online defensive driver courses; to provide for a report to the
5 General Assembly; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
10 restoration of licenses to persons completing defensive driving courses, is amended by
11 adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "40-5-83.1.

13 (a) The purpose of this article is to improve and promote greater safety upon the highways
14 and streets of this state and to improve the attitude and driving habits of drivers who
15 accumulate traffic accident and motor vehicle conviction records.

16 (b) States using online defensive driver courses for persons in driver improvement clinics
17 have documented such courses' effectiveness. However, questions have arisen relating to
18 whether online defensive driver courses offer the appropriate course content and security
19 verification.

20 (c) There is a need to examine these issues to determine if legislative action is needed to
21 allow for the authorization of online defensive driver courses, including whether legislation
22 should be proposed in areas including, but not limited to, the use of keyboard biometrics
23 and voice biometrics to ensure online identity verification, the inclusion of civil and
24 criminal penalties for those attempting to falsify identity, and the creation of a data base
25 to determine if participating in an online defensive driver course reduces crash or violation
26 recidivism at the same or better levels than courses conducted in a classroom.

27 (d) The department is authorized to establish a six-month pilot program to determine the
28 effectiveness of providing online defensive driver courses and the best way to ensure
29 identity and data base security. Upon completion of the pilot program, the department shall
30 make a report to the General Assembly along with recommendations as to the viability of
31 incorporating online defensive driving courses into the approved curriculum of driver
32 improvement clinics and the effectiveness of any security methods. The department may
33 require any licensed online defensive driver program to utilize security technology
34 including technology developed after the initial licensing of the program."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2010.

37 **SECTION 3.**

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