

Senate Bill 120

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Grant of the 25th, Unterman of the 45th, Goggans of the 7th,
Sims of the 12th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-142 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 prescribed courses and the development and dissemination of instructional materials on the
3 effect of alcohol, so as to provide for a parent or guardian participation component in the
4 alcohol and drug course required for obtaining a driver's license for a person under 18 years
5 of age; to amend Code Section 40-5-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating
6 to driver's license application fees, so as to provide for motor vehicle report; to provide for
7 related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 20-2-142 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prescribed
12 courses and the development and dissemination of instructional materials on the effect of
13 alcohol, is amended in subsection (b) as follows:

14 "(b)(1) The State Board of Education and the Board of Driver Services shall jointly
15 establish an alcohol and drug course for the purpose of informing the young people of
16 this state of the dangers involved in consuming alcohol or certain drugs in connection
17 with the operation of a motor vehicle. The course shall be designed to generate greater
18 interest in highway safety and accident prevention. The state board and the Board of
19 Driver Services shall jointly, by rules or regulations, determine the contents of the course
20 and its duration. The commissioner of driver services shall make available officers,
21 employees, officials, agents, contractors, or other appropriate representatives as
22 determined by the commissioner of driver services to teach the alcohol and drug course.
23 The alcohol and drug course shall be offered periodically but not less than once annually
24 in the public schools of this state to students in grades nine and above in the manner
25 prescribed by the state board.

26 (2) The alcohol and drug course required by this subsection shall include a parent or
 27 guardian participation component which substantially complies with the following
 28 requirements:

29 (A) A joint session with the parent or guardian and child which provides opportunities
 30 for parents or guardians to participate in the guidance and delivery of the anti-drug and
 31 anti-alcohol instruction; and

32 (B) A separate component solely for parental or guardian instruction, that provides
 33 drug prevention strategies, legal accountability information, an opportunity for parent
 34 or guardian questions, and any other information that would offer parents or guardians
 35 a framework for the protection of their children from alcohol and other drug use.

36 ~~(2)~~(3) All schools with grade nine or above which receive funds in any manner from the
 37 state shall make available to eligible students and their parents or guardians the alcohol
 38 and drug course provided in ~~paragraph (1)~~ of this subsection.

39 ~~(3)~~(4) The commissioner of driver services shall make the alcohol and drug course, and
 40 instructors where necessary, available to the private schools in this state. In addition, the
 41 commissioner of driver services shall offer the alcohol and drug course periodically at
 42 various locations in the state in the manner provided by the Board of Driver Services.
 43 The commissioner shall also be authorized to offer such course electronically online or
 44 in such other manner as determined appropriate by the commissioner."

45 SECTION 2.

46 Code Section 40-5-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to driver's license
 47 application fees, is amended by adding a new subsection as follows:

48 "(f) The General Assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the state to encourage
 49 alcohol and drug education to inform young people of the dangers involved in consuming
 50 alcohol or certain drugs while operating a motor vehicle. The General Assembly further
 51 finds that parental or guardian involvement in an alcohol and drug awareness program will
 52 assist in reducing the number of young persons involved in driving under the influence of
 53 drugs or alcohol. To promote these purposes, where a parent or guardian successfully
 54 participates in the parent-guardian component of the alcohol and drug course required by
 55 subsection (a) of Code Section 40-5-22 as prescribed in subsection (b) of Code Section
 56 20-2-142, each parent or guardian shall be entitled to a one-time three-year online motor
 57 vehicle report."

58 SECTION 3.

59 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 60 without such approval.

61

SECTION 4.

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