By: Delegates Mandel, Dypski, DeCarlo, ~~and W. Baker~~ W. Baker, McClenahan, Conway,
Love, Bozman, Eckardt, and Walkup
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Assigned to: Ways and Means
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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 18, 1997

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Driver Education - Standardized Classroom Phase Curriculum and Increased Hours of**
3   **Laboratory Instruction**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the number of hours of laboratory instruction in a driver
5   education course that an individual under a certain age must complete before the
6   individual qualifies for a driver's license; requiring a certain number of hours of
7   nighttime driving laboratory instruction under certain circumstances; requiring the
8   curriculum in the classroom phase of all driver education courses to be standardized
9   and based on a certain curriculum; making stylistic changes; and generally relating
10   to requirements regarding the number of hours of laboratory instruction and a
11   standardized curriculum in driver education programs.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13   Article - Transportation
14   Section 16-103(b)(1) and (2) and 16-506
15   Annotated Code of Maryland
16   (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

17   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19   **Article - Transportation**

20 16-103.

21   (b) (1) Except as provided under paragraph (3) of this subsection, the
22 Administration may issue a noncommercial Class B, C, or M license to an individual

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1 under the age of 18, if he is at least 16 years old and has completed satisfactorily a driver's
2 education course approved under Subtitle 5 of this title, and has completed satisfactorily
3 [6] 8 hours of laboratory instruction, 2 HOURS OF WHICH SHALL INCLUDE NIGHTTIME
4 DRIVING INSTRUCTION.

5   (2) The individual shall be exempt from the laboratory instruction required
6 by this subsection, though not the required classroom instruction, if:

7   (i) [He] THE INDIVIDUAL has been licensed regularly to drive in
8 another state for at least 6 months; and

9   (ii) [He] THE INDIVIDUAL establishes to the satisfaction of a
10 classroom instructor certified under Subtitle 5 of this title that [his] THE INDIVIDUAL'S
11 driving experience is sufficient to justify the exemption.

12 16-506.

13   (a) Subject to the prior endorsement of the regulations by the State
14 Superintendent of Schools, the Administration shall adopt and enforce regulations not
15 inconsistent with this subtitle to implement driver education programs conducted by
16 licensed drivers' schools under its jurisdiction.

17   (b) Regulations adopted under this section shall be administered by the
18 Administration and shall include:

19   (1) (I) A STANDARDIZED CURRICULUM REQUIRED FOR THE
20 CLASSROOM PHASE OF ALL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS BASED ON THE
21 "NOVICE DRIVER EDUCATION MODEL CURRICULUM OUTLINE" PREPARED FOR THE
22 AAA FOUNDATION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY OR ON A SIMILAR PROGRAM SELECTED BY
23 THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

24   (II) CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR THE LABORATORY PHASE;

25   (2) [Curriculum, equipment,] EQUIPMENT and facility standards for both
26 classroom and laboratory phases;

27   [(2)] (3) Minimum student performance standards for successful
28 completion of an approved driver education program, consisting of at least 30 hours of
29 classroom instruction;

30   [(3)] (4) Standards for the certification of schools, classroom instructors,
31 and laboratory instructors;

32   [(4)] (5) A system to evaluate the effectiveness of the driver education
33 program;

34   [(5)] (6) Standards governing the required offering of the driver education
35 program, based on the capacity, enrollment, staff, and facilities of the schools; and

36   [(6)] (7) Standards for the eligibility of individuals to enroll in the program.

37   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
38 October 1, 1997.

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