

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 27-24.2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-24.2) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-24.2)

7 Sec. 27-24.2. Safety education; driver education course.
8 Instruction shall be given in safety education in each of
9 grades one through 8, equivalent to one class period each
10 week, and any school district which maintains grades 9 through
11 12 shall offer a driver education course in any such school
12 which it operates. Its curriculum shall include content
13 dealing with Chapters 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 of the Illinois
14 Vehicle Code, the rules adopted pursuant to those Chapters
15 insofar as they pertain to the operation of motor vehicles,
16 and the portions of the Litter Control Act relating to the
17 operation of motor vehicles. The course of instruction given
18 in grades 10 through 12 shall include an emphasis on the
19 development of knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills
20 necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles, including
21 motorcycles insofar as they can be taught in the classroom,
22 and instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic
23 safety issue. In addition, the course shall include

1 instruction on special hazards existing at and required safety
2 and driving precautions that must be observed at emergency
3 situations, highway construction and maintenance zones,
4 including worker safety in highway construction and
5 maintenance zones, and railroad crossings and the approaches
6 thereto. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the course
7 shall also include instruction concerning law enforcement
8 procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the
9 proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and
10 appropriate interactions with law enforcement. The course of
11 instruction required of each eligible student at the high
12 school level shall consist of a minimum of 30 clock hours of
13 classroom instruction and a minimum of 6 clock hours of
14 individual behind-the-wheel instruction in a dual control car
15 on public roadways taught by a driver education instructor
16 endorsed by the State Board of Education. A school district's
17 decision to allow a student to take a portion of the driver
18 education course through a distance learning program must be
19 determined on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the
20 school's administration, including the student's driver
21 education teacher, and the student's parent or guardian. Under
22 no circumstances may the student take the entire driver
23 education course through a distance learning program. Both the
24 classroom instruction part and the practice driving part of a
25 driver education course shall be open to a resident or
26 non-resident student attending a non-public school in the

1 district wherein the course is offered. Each student attending
2 any public or non-public high school in the district must
3 receive a passing grade in at least 8 courses during the
4 previous 2 semesters prior to enrolling in a driver education
5 course, or the student shall not be permitted to enroll in the
6 course; provided that the local superintendent of schools
7 (with respect to a student attending a public high school in
8 the district) or chief school administrator (with respect to a
9 student attending a non-public high school in the district)
10 may waive the requirement if the superintendent or chief
11 school administrator, as the case may be, deems it to be in the
12 best interest of the student. A student may be allowed to
13 commence the classroom instruction part of such driver
14 education course prior to reaching age 15 if such student then
15 will be eligible to complete the entire course within 12
16 months after being allowed to commence such classroom
17 instruction.

18 A school district may offer a driver education course in a
19 school by contracting with a commercial driver training school
20 to provide both the classroom instruction part and the
21 practice driving part or either one without having to request
22 a modification or waiver of administrative rules of the State
23 Board of Education if the school district approves the action
24 during a public hearing on whether to enter into a contract
25 with a commercial driver training school. The public hearing
26 shall be held at a regular or special school board meeting

1 prior to entering into such a contract. If a school district
2 chooses to approve a contract with a commercial driver
3 training school, then the district must provide evidence to
4 the State Board of Education that the commercial driver
5 training school with which it will contract holds a license
6 issued by the Secretary of State under Article IV of Chapter 6
7 of the Illinois Vehicle Code and that each instructor employed
8 by the commercial driver training school to provide
9 instruction to students served by the school district holds a
10 valid teaching license issued under the requirements of this
11 Code and rules of the State Board of Education. Such evidence
12 must include, but need not be limited to, a list of each
13 instructor assigned to teach students served by the school
14 district, which list shall include the instructor's name,
15 personal identification number as required by the State Board
16 of Education, birth date, and driver's license number. Once
17 the contract is entered into, the school district shall notify
18 the State Board of Education of any changes in the personnel
19 providing instruction either (i) within 15 calendar days after
20 an instructor leaves the program or (ii) before a new
21 instructor is hired. Such notification shall include the
22 instructor's name, personal identification number as required
23 by the State Board of Education, birth date, and driver's
24 license number. If the school district maintains an Internet
25 website, then the district shall post a copy of the final
26 contract between the district and the commercial driver

1 training school on the district's Internet website. If no
2 Internet website exists, then the school district shall make
3 available the contract upon request. A record of all materials
4 in relation to the contract must be maintained by the school
5 district and made available to parents and guardians upon
6 request. The instructor's date of birth and driver's license
7 number and any other personally identifying information as
8 deemed by the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994
9 must be redacted from any public materials.

10 Such a course may be commenced immediately after the
11 completion of a prior course. Teachers of such courses shall
12 meet the licensure requirements of this Code and regulations
13 of the State Board as to qualifications. Except for a contract
14 with a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, a school
15 district that contracts with a third party to teach a driver
16 education course under this Section must ensure the teacher
17 meets the educator licensure and endorsement requirements
18 under Article 21B and must follow the same evaluation and
19 observation requirements that apply to non-tenured teachers
20 under Article 24A. The teacher evaluation must be conducted by
21 a school administrator employed by the school district and
22 must be submitted annually to the district superintendent and
23 all school board members for oversight purposes.

24 Subject to rules of the State Board of Education, the
25 school district may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed
26 \$50, to students who participate in the course, unless a

1 student is unable to pay for such a course, in which event the
2 fee for such a student must be waived. However, the district
3 may increase this fee to an amount not to exceed \$250 by school
4 board resolution following a public hearing on the increase,
5 which increased fee must be waived for students who
6 participate in the course and are unable to pay for the course.
7 The total amount from driver education fees and reimbursement
8 from the State for driver education must not exceed the total
9 cost of the driver education program in any year and must be
10 deposited into the school district's driver education fund as
11 a separate line item budget entry. All moneys deposited into
12 the school district's driver education fund must be used
13 solely for the funding of a high school driver education
14 program approved by the State Board of Education that uses
15 driver education instructors endorsed by the State Board of
16 Education.

17 (Source: P.A. 101-183, eff. 8-2-19; 101-450, eff. 8-23-19;
18 102-558, eff. 8-20-21.)

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect August
20 1, 2024.