

321J.22 Drinking drivers course.

1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

a. "Course for drinking drivers" means an approved course designed to inform the offender about drinking and driving and encourage the offender to assess the offender's own drinking and driving behavior in order to select practical alternatives.

b. "Satisfactory completion of a course" means receiving at the completion of a course a grade from the course instructor of "C" or "2.0," or better.

2. *a.* The course provided according to this section shall be offered on a regular basis at each community college as defined in section 260C.2, or by substance abuse treatment programs licensed under chapter 125. However, a community college shall not be required to offer the course if a substance abuse treatment program licensed under chapter 125 offers the course within the merged area served by the community college.

b. Enrollment in the courses is not limited to persons ordered to enroll, attend, and successfully complete the course required under sections 321J.2 and 321J.17, subsection 2. However, any person under age eighteen who is required to attend the courses for violation of section 321J.2 or 321J.17 must attend a course offered by a substance abuse treatment program licensed under chapter 125.

c. The course required by this section shall be:

(1) Taught by a community college under the supervision of the department of education or by a substance abuse treatment program licensed under chapter 125.

(2) Approved by the department of education, in consultation with the community colleges and substance abuse treatment programs licensed under chapter 125.

d. The department of education shall establish reasonable fees to defray the expense of obtaining classroom space, instructor salaries, and class materials for courses offered both by community colleges and by substance abuse treatment programs licensed under chapter 125, and for administrative expenses incurred by the department of education in implementing subsection 5 on behalf of in-state and out-of- state offenders.

e. A person shall not be denied enrollment in a course by reason of the person's indigency.

3. An employer shall not discharge a person from employment solely for the reason of work absence to attend a course required by this section. Any employer who violates this section is liable for damages which include but are not limited to actual damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees. The person may also petition the court for imposition of a cease and desist order against the person's employer and for reinstatement to the person's previous position of employment.

4. The department of education and substance abuse treatment programs licensed under chapter 125 shall prepare for their respective courses a list of the locations of the courses taught under this section, the dates and times taught, the procedure for enrollment, and the schedule of course fees. The list shall be kept current and a copy of the list shall be sent to each court having jurisdiction over offenses provided in this chapter.

5. The department of education and substance abuse treatment programs licensed under chapter 125 shall maintain enrollment, attendance, successful and unsuccessful completion data for their respective courses on the persons ordered to enroll, attend, and successfully complete a course for drinking drivers. This data shall be forwarded to the court by both the department of education and substance abuse treatment programs licensed under chapter 125.

86 Acts, ch 1220, § 22; 90 Acts, ch 1253, § 120; 97 Acts, ch 177, §22; 2000 Acts, ch 1138, §5; 2002 Acts, ch 1140, §37; 2002 Acts, 2nd Ex, ch 1003, §240, 262; 2003 Acts, ch 180, §60