

Senate File 317 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 317
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 98)

(COMPANION TO HF 380 BY
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act requiring approved driver education courses to include
- 2 instruction concerning distracted driving.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.178, subsection 1, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) A minimum of four hours of instruction concerning
4 substance abuse and distracted driving.

5 Sec. 2. Section 321.178A, subsection 3, paragraph a,
6 subparagraph (3), Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

7 (3) Four hours of classroom instruction concerning
8 substance abuse and distracted driving.

9

EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 Under current law, student drivers are required to complete
13 an approved driver education course. The course is required to
14 consist of a minimum of 30 hours of classroom instruction and
15 at least six hours of laboratory instruction. The classroom
16 instruction must include at least four hours of instruction
17 concerning substance abuse, at least 20 minutes of instruction
18 concerning railroad crossing safety, instruction relating to
19 becoming an organ donor, and instruction providing an awareness
20 about sharing the road with bicycles and motorcycles.

21 As an alternative to the approved course requirements
22 under Code section 321.178, a teaching parent, under Code
23 section 321.178A, may instruct a student in an approved
24 driver education course with the same classroom instruction
25 requirements and 40 hours of street or highway driving
26 including four hours of driving after sunset and before sunrise
27 while the student is accompanied by the teaching parent.

28 This bill requires approved classroom courses to include
29 instruction for students concerning distracted driving
30 under Code sections 321.178 and 321.178A. Approved courses
31 must include a minimum of four hours instruction concerning
32 substance abuse and distracted driving. The bill does not add
33 additional required instruction time to the student curriculum.