

## HB 534 -- DRIVER'S EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

SPONSOR: Higdon

This bill establishes provisions regarding mandatory driver's education and training.

### DRIVERS EDUCATION IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

This bill requires each public high school, including each charter high school, to offer an approved driver's education course, taught by a qualified instructor, to students each school year. A student who successfully completes the course shall receive 1/2 credit as an elective and the course is not required to graduate from high school. The student shall receive a certificate of completion and the school shall submit the student's name to the Department of Revenue.

The bill requires the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to establish a driver's education curriculum certification process for public schools required to offer the driver's education course before August 1, 2018. Upon certification by the commission each public high school's driver's education program shall be placed on the commission's approved driver's education list and submitted to the Department of Revenue (DoR). The State Board of Education in Consultation with the Department of Transportation (MoDot) shall establish the rules to implement these provisions (Sections 170.023 and 170.024, RSMo).

### MANDATORY DRIVER'S EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Beginning January 1, 2019, if an applicant for a driver's license has never held a license issued by the State of Missouri or any other state or territory of the United States or foreign country, the applicant must successfully complete a driver's education program approved by the commission, as specified in the bill.

MoDOT shall enter into agreements with public or private institutions or organizations to provide driver's education programs free of charge to anyone who has never held a driver's license. The commission shall establish a process for certification and approval of private driver's education programs and instructors, before August 1, 2018. Upon certification by the commission, a driver's education program shall be placed on the approved driver's education list compiled by the commission and submitted to the DOR (Sections 302.171, 302.214, and 302.212).

### DRIVERS EDUCATION TRAINING FUND

The bill creates the "Driver's Education Training Fund," which is funded by fees specified in the bill, appropriations of the General Assembly, Federal grants, private donations, and any moneys designated for the Driver's Education Training Programs established in these provisions (Section 302.316).

The bill contains a sunset clause.