

**ACT 42**

A Bill for an Act Authorizing the Department of Education to Establish a Motor Vehicle Driver Training Program, Making an Appropriation Therefor, and Amending Chapter 37 of the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as Amended.

*Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

**SECTION 1.** This Act is hereby declared to be an urgency measure deemed necessary in the public interest within the meaning of section 11 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

The following is a statement of the facts constituting such urgency:

The grave problems created by our high motor vehicle accident and death rates make it imperative that immediate action be taken to reduce the needless loss of human life on the highways. It is deemed a matter of urgency that the department of education provide and administer a program of driver education to minors as one solution in order to preserve the health, safety and welfare of our citizens.

**SECTION 2. Purpose.** (a) The purpose of this Act is to establish a statewide driver education and training program which will consist of an approved course of study to include at least thirty hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel training, administered through the department of education and offered by certified instructors, outside of regular school hours, at each public high school in the State, on a voluntary basis.

(b) The legislature finds that one hundred and five persons were killed and eight thousand three hundred persons were injured on Hawaii's roads and highways in 1965; that the costs of hospitalization and medical services because of 1965 traffic accidents were in excess of seven million dollars; and that the 1965 traffic accidents cost over six million dollars in property losses. The legislature finds further that driver education programs have been demonstrated to improve the performance of young drivers who successfully complete the course of study; to reduce the automobile insurance premiums for young drivers; to contribute to lower automobile insurance premiums generally; and to result in a substantial furtherance of the general welfare through savings in human life, suffering, and property.

**SECTION 3.** Chapter 37, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as amended, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**“Sec. 37- . Driver Education.** (a) The department is hereby authorized to establish and administer a motor vehicle driver education and training program to be conducted at each public high school in the State after regular school hours, on Saturdays and during the summer recess.

(b) The department shall, for the purpose of this section:

(1) Set the prerequisites and priorities for enrollment in the course of driver education and training which shall be open to every resident of the State who is 15 years of age or older and under 19 years of age;

(2) Establish the requirements for and employ necessary instructors, who are certified to have completed satisfactorily an approved instructor’s course, to conduct the course in driver education and training;

(3) Issue a certificate of completion to every student upon satisfactory completion of the course in driver education and training;

(4) Purchase, rent or acquire by gift materials and equipment necessary for the program established by this section; and

(5) Cooperate with the chief of police in each county in promoting traffic safety.

(c) The department is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, in conformance with the provisions of chapter 60, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as amended, necessary for the purposes of this Act.”

**SECTION 4.** (a) The Department of Education shall be responsible for conducting approved courses for instructors in driver education and training.

(b) The Department of Education shall certify any person who satisfactorily completes a course for instructors in driver education and training as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

**SECTION 5.** There is hereby appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$120,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the Department of Education for the purposes of this Act. The department is further authorized to utilize any other funds that may be available for its use for the purposes of this Act.

**SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 3, 1966.) **H.B. 5.**