
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 235

AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVER EDUCATION AND STUDENT SAFETY.

SUMMARY

The bill makes several changes related to driving schools, driver's education programs, and behind-the-wheel training.

The bill requires commercial driving schools to allow students to request an instructor of a certain gender when they enroll in the behind-the-wheel instruction component of a driver education program. If the driving school cannot accommodate a student's request at any time during the instruction, it must allow the student to reschedule without charging an additional fee or penalty.

Under the bill, commercial driving schools must, by January 1, 2027, prominently post on their websites (if they have one) information on whether or not the school has implemented these safety measures:

1. their instructors have completed Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)-administered proficiency testing;
2. their instructors receive annual training or continuing education;
3. the school uses electronic monitoring systems, such as GPS, to track a student's location during behind-the-wheel instruction;
4. the school uses an audio or video monitoring system, such as a dash camera, inside or outside of the vehicle to ensure a student's safety; and
5. the vehicles the school uses for behind-the-wheel instruction are annually inspected by DMV.

Lastly, the bill specifies that the behind-the-wheel instruction

component of a driver's education program must include practicing how to pull off the road in a safe location and respond to a police officer's traffic stop. This requirement applies to driver's education programs offered by commercial driving schools, local or regional boards of education, or private secondary schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/16/2026)