



Texas Home School Coalition ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas
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Allan B. Polunsky
Public Safety Commission Chairman

Department of Public Safety
Driver License Division
PO Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0001

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Mr. Polunsky, it has come to our attention that a memorandum has been distributed to Texas DPS offices, which advises against adhering to policies passed in the 2009 Texas legislature.

SB 1317 requires individuals age 18 – 24 years of age to complete a driver education course to obtain a learner's permit. The legislation specifically allows for a course approved under Section 521.205 (parent-taught driver education), but DPS has sent out a memorandum stating that they will not accept courses approved under this section.

Courses under Section 521.205 require 32 hours of classroom and a minimum of 14 in-vehicle training hours plus 20 additional hours of supervised practice. The DPS memorandum states that courses of this type taught by public and commercial schools will be accepted, but not parent-taught courses. In addition, the DPS will accept 6-hour classroom courses approved by the TEA for this purpose.

Parents should have the option of providing the longer course if they so choose. The longer course far exceeds the minimum standard that the DPS accepts and students who successfully complete the program are certainly likely to be better prepared drivers because the course under Section 521.205 requires actual in-vehicle training and practice.

Please take whatever action is necessary to insure that parents do not lose their rights based on the memorandum issued the DPS. I urge you to implement this legislation as the language requires and to make that position clear to the public. I would appreciate a response regarding the DPS interpretation of this element of HB 339.

Sincerely,

Tim Lambert

cc: Governor Rick Perry; Lt. Governor David Dewhurst; State Representative Larry Phillips; State Senator John Carona; State Senator Dan Patrick

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