

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 864
May 4, 2021
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

H

D

HOUSE BILL DRH50025-MWfa-5A

Short Title: Driver Educ/Drug & Alcohol Awareness. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Graham.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A COURSE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS FOR
3 PERSONS EIGHTEEN YEARS AND OLDER AND WHO ARE FIRST-TIME DRIVERS.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. Article 2 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
6 a new section to read:

7 "**§ 20-11.2. Mandatory course in drug and alcohol abuse awareness for unlicensed drivers**
8 **18 years and older.**

9 (a) Mandatory Course. – All applicants for a drivers license who are 18 years and older,
10 including those who have been licensed in another country, must complete a course in alcohol
11 and drug abuse awareness, unless the applicant is licensed in another state or has satisfactorily
12 completed a Department of Education driver education course offered pursuant to Article 14 of
13 Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

14 (b) Course Requirements. – The course shall be three hours in length, may be offered
15 online or in person, and shall promote traffic safety and provide instruction on (i) the
16 physiological and psychological consequences of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, (ii) the
17 effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the driver of a motor vehicle, (iii) the laws of this State
18 relating to the operation of a motor vehicle, and (iv) high-risk driving behaviors, such as fatigued
19 driving, aggressive driving, and distracted driving, including the use of electronic devices while
20 driving.

21 (c) Third-Party Vendors. – The Division shall utilize third-party vendors to offer the
22 course in alcohol and drug abuse awareness. Each third-party vendor shall obtain a certification
23 from the Division that the third-party vendor's course complies with the requirements of
24 subsection (b) of this section. The Division shall maintain oversight of the courses established
25 and conducted by the third-party vendors. Each person who attends the course shall pay a fee in
26 the amount set by the Division."

27 SECTION 2. Of the funds appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department
28 of Transportation for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars
29 (\$200,000) in recurring funds shall be used by the Department for the purposes of this act.

30 SECTION 3. This act becomes effective January 1, 2022.

