

SUBJECT: Allowing parents to name a designee for parent-taught driver education

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Nevárez, Burns, Hinojosa, Holland, J. Johnson, Metcalf, Schaefer, Wray

0 nays

1 absent — P. King

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brian Francis, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

BACKGROUND: Education Code, sec. 1001.112 requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to provide for approval of a parent-taught driver education course, which may be conducted by certain relatives and legal guardians.

Anyone conducting such a course must have:

- held a valid license for the preceding three years that had not been suspended, revoked, or forfeited for an offense involving a motor vehicle in the past three years;
- not been convicted of criminally negligent homicide or driving while intoxicated; and
- not more than five points assigned to their license at the time the course begins.

DIGEST: CSHB 3337 would allow a parent with a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits major life activities to designate someone to

conduct a parent-taught driver education course for his or her child. The designee would have to be at least 25 years old and meet the other requirements laid out by Education Code, sec. 1001.112.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 3337 would relieve burdens on parents with disabilities who may not be able to teach their teens how to drive. Current law unnecessarily requires the person conducting a driver education course under the parent-taught program to be a parent, step-parent, foster parent, legal guardian, grandparent, or step-grandparent. Many parents with disabilities therefore are forced to spend money on fees for a traditional driver education class. This bill would give them options to avoid such a burden.

The benefits of the parent-taught program could be realized by anyone close to the family. Most designees likely would be friends or relatives of the family who currently are not eligible, and that personal and emotional attachment to the new driver would create an incentive to provide a quality education. Possibly because of this incentive, historically there has been no difference in outcomes between the forms of driver education.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

CSHB 3337 differs from the bill as filed in that the committee substitute would define "disability" and require a designee to be at least 25 years old, instead of 18 years old as in the filed bill.