

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

H.B. 864  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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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.

