



Florida House of Representatives

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House Committees

Chair, Joint Committee on Government Accountability
Policy and Budget Council
Utilities & Telecommunications Committee
Education Innovation and Career Preparation Committee
Courts Committee
Commissioner, Florida Commission on Tourism
Delegate, Bay Area Legislative Delegation

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Rep. Ambler and “Ought To Be A Law” Students Present Tyler’s Bill in Senate and Bill Passes with Unanimous Support

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Today, April 22, Representative Kevin Ambler (R-Tampa) and the Hillsborough County high school students who make up the Student Legislative Council presented Senate Bill 2678, Tyler’s Bill for Mandatory Education, to the Senate Committee on Community Affairs, and Tyler’s Bill passed through the Committee with a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Tyler’s Bill has previously passed the Senate Transportation Committee with a unanimous vote, and has been heard in the House Committee on Infrastructure as well as the Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council. The Policy and Budget Council will be the last stop in the House for Tyler’s Bill before it moves to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote.

Mrs. Linda Murillo of Manatee County, Tyler’s mother, testified for Tyler’s Bill today along with Jessica Conkey (Spoto High School), Kelsey Fernandez (Durant High School), T.J. Mouse (Chamberlain High School), and Dillon Flowers (Durant High School). Jessica Conkey, a sophomore from Spoto High School in Riverview, FL, testified in the Committee today that, “37 out of 50 states in the U.S. have mandatory driver education. The largest cause of death of young people in Florida is auto accidents, which are largely preventable. I believe that with the proper education, we can reduce the number of young people in auto accidents, but Florida must take action now to show that the state is committed to this issue.” The bill’s namesake, Tyler Isenhour, was a 16 year old boy who had his driver’s license just one week before he overcorrected after hitting a curb on S.R. 70 in Bradenton, and rolled his car at a speed of just 35 m.p.h. He was killed instantly in the auto accident. Tyler’s Bill provides that no person under the age of 18 can receive a driver license without completing an approved course in driver education in the state of Florida.

The “Ought to be a Law” Student Bill Drafting Competition, was initiated four years ago by Rep. Ambler, and began as the first program of its kind in the United States to offer high school students the opportunity to write, research, and present a real bill before the state legislature. In the 2007 Session, the “Ought to be a Law” program, with support from Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent Mary Ellen Elia, made history when House Bill 1161 titled, *The*

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High School to Business Career Enhancement Act passed the Legislature unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Charlie Crist.

Recently, Rep. Ambler and members of the School Board for Hillsborough County Public Schools were honored with the prestigious MAGNA Award by the National Association of School Boards. The Association recognized the innovative “Ought to be a Law” program as one of the top new education initiatives in the United States. Hillsborough County Public Schools also recently received a \$2 million PROJECT Elect grant for advancing civics education based on Rep. Ambler’s “Ought to be a Law” program.

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