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## **NEW LAW SENDS BAD DRIVERS BACK TO SCHOOL**

*~ Drivers with multiple at-fault crashes will face new sanctions ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** –The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reminds motorists of a new law that goes into effect with the new year. Effective Jan. 1, 2010, drivers who are found to be at-fault in three crashes within a 36 month period will be required to successfully complete a Department-approved driver improvement course that includes behind-the-wheel training and an assessment of their driving ability.

“In an effort to make our roads safer, those who display a pattern of poor driving ability or judgment will be required to complete a driver improvement course,” said DHSMV Executive Director, Julie L. Jones. “The new law is designed to modify the behavior of some of our worst drivers.”

The new law will count at-fault crashes as far back as 2007, so after Jan.1, 2010, the Department will notify any driver who causes a crash and has at least two at-fault crashes in the preceding 36 months. The affected drivers will then be responsible for completing an approved course within 90 days in order to avoid the cancellation of their driving privilege. Each course will include a minimum of 16 hours, to include four hours of behind-the-wheel training.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the average cost of a crash in the United States is approximately \$38,000. During the 36-month period ending Dec. 31, 2008, there were 3,277 drivers with three or more at-fault crashes. That figure includes drivers from nearly every age group. According to Department estimates, more than 1,000 Florida drivers may be subject to the new requirements during 2010.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov).

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