



## Graduated Driver's License Programs

### Traffic Issue Brief (Fall 2016)

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About the Author: The Brief was prepared by Claudia Lopez, Knowledge and Information Services Intern under the supervision of Senior Analyst, Deborah Smith, National Center for State Courts. Points of view or opinions expressed in the Brief are those of the author and do not represent the official position of the NCSC or NHTSA.



Driving is a task that many adults perceive as mundane. It is a task that is only necessary in order to get from one point to another. For a teenager, however, learning to drive and obtaining a driver's license is an exciting first step in their journey toward becoming an independent adult.

Unfortunately, young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than a more experienced driver.<sup>1</sup> Fourteen percent of the United States' population is made up of individuals ages fifteen to twenty-four; however, this age group accounts for fifty-eight percent of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries.<sup>2</sup>

In an effort to reduce the number of accidents involving young drivers, all fifty states and Washington, D.C., have some form of a graduated driver's license program in place. These

<sup>1</sup> *Teen Drivers: Get the Facts*, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (October 14, 2015), [http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Teen\\_Drivers/teendrivers\\_factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Teen_Drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*



programs have been shown to reduce the number of fatal and injury crashes by thirty-eight to forty percent.<sup>3</sup> A graduated driver's license program allows a young driver to earn their way toward a driver's license with full privileges in stages, with each stage containing fewer driving restrictions. Driving is complex and a driver has to be able to focus and recognize dangerous situations. Each stage in a graduated driver's license program gives the young driver the opportunity to practice and improve their driving skills before obtaining full privileges.

For example, a teenager may first be required to obtain a learner's permit with the restriction that they can only drive if there is a family member of at least twenty-one years of age in the car with them. The teenager may then qualify for a license after reaching a certain age. This license, however, may restrict the young driver to driving during certain hours of the day and with no greater than a specified number of minors in the car. Only after the young driver has completed these stages will they receive a license with full driving privileges.

Although the graduated driver's license programs differ per state, they are all similarly structured. New Jersey is the only state with a program that stands out. Unlike any of the other states, New Jersey requires drivers under the age of twenty-one who do not have full driving privileges to display a decal on their vehicle.<sup>4</sup> The decal is intended to make it easier for police officers to identify new drivers who may be violating the restrictions of their license.

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Laws*, GOVERNORS HIGHWAY SAFETY ASSOCIATION (October 2016), [http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/license\\_laws.html](http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/license_laws.html).



<u>State</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Statute</u>
<b>Alabama</b>	Learner's license; Age restrictions	Ala. Code § 32-6-8; Ala. Code § 32-6-7.2
<b>Alaska</b>	Restrictions on driver's license issued to a person under 18	Alaska Stat. § 28.15.057
<b>Arizona</b>	Driver license issuance	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 28-3153
<b>Arkansas</b>	Application of minor for instruction permit, learner's license, or intermediate driver's license.	Ark. Code Ann. § 27-16-702
<b>California</b>	Application	Cal. Veh. Code § 12650
<b>Colorado</b>	Restrictions on minor drivers under eighteen years of age - penalties - legislative declaration	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 42-2-105.5
<b>Connecticut</b>	Restrictions on transportation of passengers and hours of operation of vehicle by holders of motor vehicle operator's licenses who are sixteen or seventeen years of age. Exceptions. Regulations. Penalties.	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 14-36g
<b>Delaware</b>	Issuance of a Level 1 Learner's Permit and Class D operator's license to persons under 18 years of age	Del. Code Ann. tit. 21, § 2710
<b>District of Columbia</b>	Fee; examination; age requirements; lost permits; provisions for armed forces personnel; contents; operation without permit prohibited; restrictions for minors.	D.C. Code § 50-1401.01
<b>Florida</b>	Learner's driver license.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 322.1615
<b>Georgia</b>	Instruction permits; graduated licensing and related restrictions; temporary licenses	Ga. Code Ann. § 40-5-24
<b>Hawaii</b>	Provisional license for persons under the age of eighteen	Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 286-102.6
<b>Idaho</b>	Class D driver's training instruction permit -- Class D supervised instruction permit -- Application for a class D driver's license -- Restrictions on class D driver's license	Idaho Code § 49-307
<b>Illinois</b>	Graduated license	625 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/6-107
<b>Indiana</b>	Conditions for issuance of learner's permit; Restrictions on operation of motor vehicle for those under 21 years and within first 180 days after issuance of license.	Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-7-1; Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-11-3.5
<b>Iowa</b>	Graduated driver's licenses for persons aged fourteen through seventeen.	321.180B
<b>Kansas</b>	Instruction permits for persons 17 years of age and older; conditions and requirements.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 8-239
<b>Kentucky</b>	Operators' licenses — Requirements and issuance — Personal identification cards, validity — Driver training programs.	Ky. Rev. Stat. § 186.410
<b>Louisiana</b>	Application of minors; revocation; applications of persons less than twenty-one years of age.	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32:407



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<b>Maine</b>	Learner's permit	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 29-A, § 1304
<b>Maryland</b>	Learner's instructional permit; Provisional license	Md. Code Ann., Transp. § 16-105; Md. Code Ann., Transp. § 16-111
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Learner's Permit; Liability of Licensed Operator.	Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 90, § 8B
<b>Michigan</b>	Graduated licensing	Mich. Comp. Laws Serv. § 257.310e
<b>Minnesota</b>	Instruction permit	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.05
<b>Mississippi</b>	Persons prohibited from obtaining license; issuance of regular learner's permits, intermediate licenses and driver's licenses	Miss. Code Ann. § 63-1-9
<b>Missouri</b>	Intermediate driver's license, issued to whom, requirements, limitations, fee, duration, point assessment — penalty, application for full driving privileges, requirements — exceptions — penalty — rulemaking authority, procedure	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 302.178
<b>Montana</b>	Instruction permits — traffic education learner licenses and permits — temporary licenses.	Mont. Code Ann. § 61-5-106
<b>Nebraska</b>	Operators' licenses; classification.	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann § 60-480
<b>Nevada</b>	Drivers who are 16 or 17 years of age: Prerequisites to issuance of license.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 483.2521
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Original and Youth Operators' Licenses.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 263:14
<b>New Jersey</b>	Probationary driver's license	N.J. Stat. § 39:3-13.4
<b>New Mexico</b>	Provisional licenses; instruction permits; driver education students; temporary licenses.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 66-5-8
<b>New York</b>	Requirements for licensing	N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 502
<b>North Carolina</b>	Issuance of limited learner's permit and provisional drivers license to person who is less than 18 years old	N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-11
<b>North Dakota</b>	Class D instruction permit	N.D. Cent. Code § 39-06-04
<b>Ohio</b>	Probationary license for minor; restricted license for fourteen or fifteen-year-old; restrictions on stops for violations.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4507.071
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Permits or Licenses for Persons Under 18— Liability—Financial Responsibility—Cancellation or Suspension	Okla. Stat. tit. 47, § 6-107
<b>Oregon</b>	Additional eligibility requirements for persons under 18 years of age; provisional driver license.	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 807.065
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Learners' permits.	75 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 1505
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Graduated licensing for person under the age of eighteen (18)	31 R.I. Gen. Laws § 10-6
<b>South Carolina</b>	Beginner's permit; hours and conditions of vehicle operation; renewal and fee; driver's training course; eligibility for full licensure.	S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-50
<b>South Dakota</b>	Operator's license — Eligibility — Minors.	S.D. Codified Laws § 32-12-17
<b>Tennessee</b>	Learner permit -- Intermediate license -- Fees -- Restrictions -- Penalties -- Application -- Parental notification; Licensing of minors.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-50-311; Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-50-312



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<b>Texas</b>	Instruction Permit.	Tex. Transp. Code § 521.222
<b>Utah</b>	Learner permit.; Provisional licenses only for persons under 21 — Separate point system — Denial and suspension procedures.	Utah Code Ann. § 53-3-210.5; Utah Code Ann. § 53-3-209
<b>Vermont</b>	Junior operator's license	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 607
<b>Virginia</b>	Conditions and requirements for licensure of persons under 18	Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-334
<b>Washington</b>	Intermediate license.	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 46.20.075
<b>West Virginia</b>	Graduated driver's licenses.	W. Va. Code § 17B-2-3a
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Instruction permits; Probationary licenses to new drivers.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 343.07; Wis. Stat. Ann. § 343.085
<b>Wyoming</b>	Instruction and temporary driver's permits.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 31-7-110

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