




NEW JERSEY

TEEN DRIVER  
STUDY COMMISSION

REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

# TEEN DRIVER STUDY COMMISSION



- TDSC established through legislation (Assembly Bill A617), (Senate Bill S1962)
  - Signed into law by Governor Corzine March, 2007
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# MISSION


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To conduct a comprehensive review of teen driving in New Jersey and make recommendations that will ultimately reduce crashes and save lives.

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# TDSC MEMBERS



- Legislators
  - School administrators
  - Government and law enforcement officials
  - AAA, driving school and insurance industry professionals
  - Teen driver
  - PTA member
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# TDSC TOOLS & TIMETABLE

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Public Hearings, Expert Panels and an in-depth examination of available research were used to assess the problem.

Six month timetable to complete work and report back to the Governor and Legislature.

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# YOUNG DRIVERS IN NEW JERSEY



- Every 9 minutes a teen crashes in New Jersey
  - Car crashes #1 killer of teens (17-20 year olds)
  - 2003-2007, more than 400 NJ teen drivers/passengers killed in crashes
  - Teen drivers represent 6% of driving population, but are involved in 12% of crashes
  - 59,072 teen driver crashes in 2007, up 4% since 2005
  - Car crashes #1 killer of teens (17-20 year olds)
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# NINE MOST COMMON MISTAKES TEENS MAKE BEHIND-THE-WHEEL



- Overconfidence; “it can’t happen to me” attitude
  - Failing to buckle up
  - Talking on a cell phone or texting
  - Speeding
  - Impaired driving
  - Passenger distractions
  - Driving at night
  - Failure to anticipate potential dangers
  - Ignoring car maintenance
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# SEVEN KEY AREAS



- Graduated Driver License
  - Driver Education
  - Driver Training
  - Enforcement/Judicial
  - Insurance Industry
  - Schools
  - Technology
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# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Develop an event-based GDL monitoring program that includes sanctions (training, suspension and postponement) that effectively deter GDL and non-serious and serious motor vehicle violations.

Assembly Bill 3067 Introduced June 23, 2008



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Until event-based monitoring and enhanced sanctions are implemented, ban plea agreements for traffic offenses committed by GDL holders.

Assembly Bill 3067 Introduced June 23, 2008



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Implement the programming changes necessary to ensure that MVC's current and pending computer system can accommodate all components of the GDL law.

Assembly Bill 3067 Introduced June 23, 2008



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Develop a GDL identifier that must be affixed to a vehicle when driven by a permit or probationary license holder.

Assembly Bill 3069 Introduced June 23, 2008



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Require a parent/guardian to attend a teen driver orientation program with his or her teen prior to applying for a permit.

Assembly Bill 3068 Introduced June 23, 2008



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Require teens to complete a minimum number of hours of certified practice driving during the permit phase.

Assembly Bill 3068 Introduced June 23, 2008



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Extend the permit phase from a minimum of six months to one year for all new drivers 16 to 20 years of age.

Assembly Bill 3068 Introduced June 23, 2008



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# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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Limit the number of passengers in the probationary phase to one regardless of the passenger's relationship to the driver.


**Senate Bill 16 & Assembly Bill 3070**

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# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Sanction, in addition to the teen driver, all passengers 16 to 20 years of age on a permit, probationary or basic license, who violate the GDL passenger and safety belt restrictions.



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Lower the nighttime driving hours restriction from 12 a.m. to 11 p.m. for probationary license holders.

A3070 Introduced June 23, 2008 Identical Bill S16



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Close the loophole in the seat belt law to ensure all back seat passengers 18 years of age and older buckle up.

Senate Bill


A870 Introduced January 8, 2008 Identical Bill S18



# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Appropriate funding for driver education through the GDL-mandated Driver Education Fund.



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# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop and deliver to public and private schools a standardized traffic safety/driver education curriculum and incorporate it into New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards for students in grades K-12.

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# ESSENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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Amend the GDL law and the corresponding regulations to clearly define six hours of behind-the-wheel driver training.


Assembly Bill 3068, Introduced June 23, 2008

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# THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL




## Permit Phase

- Minimum age of 16
  - Pass vision screening and written test
  - Complete a parent/guardian teen orientation
  - Hold a permit for a minimum of one year
  - Minimum 6 hours behind-the-wheel training for 16 year old permit holder, optional for permit holders 17-20 years of age
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# THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL



## Permit Phase (cont)

- Minimum 50 hours of certified practice driving (10 of those hours must be at night)
  - Minimum of 100 hours of certified practice driving (20 of those hours must be at night) without behind-the-wheel training
  - Display a “GDL” identifier (color specific) on vehicle
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# THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL

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## Permit Phase Restrictions

- Limit of one passenger **regardless of relationship to driver**  
(unless passenger is 25 years of age or older)
- No driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- No use of portable electronic devices (i.e., hand-held or hands-free cell phones, ipods, video games, etc.)
- Driver and all passengers must wear seat belts

# THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL



## Probationary Phase

- Complete all requirements of the permit phase
  - Pass skills/road test
  - Minimum age of 17
  - Hold probationary license for one year
  - Display a “GDL” identifier (color specific) on vehicle
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# THE NEW AND IMPROVED GDL

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## Probationary Phase Restrictions

- **Limit of one passenger regardless of relationship to the license holder**  
(unless passenger is 25 years of age or older)
  - **No driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.** (waiver available for employment and religious activities and/or emergency situations)
  - **No use of portable electronic devices** (i.e., hand-held or hands-free cell phones, ipods, video games, etc.)
  - **Driver and all passengers must wear seat belts**
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# EVENT BASED SANCTIONS




## Non-Serious Violations:

- 1st offense – attend an MVC approved driver improvement program (license suspension for non-compliance) and 60-day postponement of full licensure
  - 2nd offense – 60-day license suspension and 120-day postponement of licensure
  - 3rd and subsequent offense – 90-day license suspension and 180-day postponement of full licensure.
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# EVENT BASED SANCTIONS



## Serious Violations:

- 180-day suspension and postponement for all GDL holders committing serious violations (i.e., high rate of speed, racing, reckless driving, leaving the scene of a crash)
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# PASSENGER SANCTIONS

- Passenger and seat belt violations result in assessment of the GDL fine (\$100) and event-based sanctions for all GDL license holders (permit and probationary phase) or Basic license holders 16 to 20 years of age in the vehicle.

# NEXT STEPS



Reactivate State Driver Education Committee to ensure recommendations are championed, enacted and monitored.





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