

Ohio Teen Driving Restrictions - Graduated licensure

- H.B. 343 changes limit number of passengers, revise curfews for teenage drivers -

Ohio's teenage drivers will face stricter limits on the number of passengers they can transport and the hours they can drive when changes in Ohio's Graduated Driver License law take effect next week.

H.B. 343, signed into law Jan. 4, places certain restrictions on the operation of motor vehicles by probationary license holders and temporary instruction permit holders who are less than 18 years of age.

The amended changes to Ohio's Graduated Driver License law took effect Friday, April 6.

- Probationary driver license holders under the age of 17 will not be permitted to operate a motor vehicle with more than one person who is not a family member in the vehicle, unless accompanied by the license holder's parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

Studies conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety have shown that one passenger doubles the risk of a fatal crash among teen drivers, two passengers triple the risk, and three or more passengers increase the risk by more than six.

- Probationary driver license holders between 17 and 18 years of age will be restricted from driving between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by a parent or guardian, with the following exceptions: an emergency situation, driving to or from a school activity, or driving to or from work.

Travel to or from work is permitted provided the teen has written

documentation from the employer.

- Probationary license holders under the age of 17 are prohibited from driving between midnight and 6 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian with the same exceptions as above.

This is a change to the previous restriction of 1 a.m. to 5 a.m.

- Permit holders under the age of 18 will be prohibited from driving between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or legal custodian who holds a valid license.

This is a change to the previous restriction of 1a.m. to 5 a.m.

- If a probationary driver license holder under the age of 17 is convicted of having committed one moving violation during the first six months of having a driver license, the person must be accompanied by a parent or guardian whenever operating a motor vehicle during the six-month period commencing on the date on which the person is convicted of or pleads guilty to the moving violation or until the person attains the age of 17.

To view the amended legislation, visit
www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126_HB_343.

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GDL Law - New Teen Driving Law: Frequently Asked Questions

Revised January 24, 2007

The Ohio Teen Driver Coalition has compiled the following list of

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the new GDL Law, Sub HB 343 that was signed into law on Jan. 4. 2007.

WHAT IS THE NEW LAW?

Answer: The new law will require the following:

Adds a passenger limit (no more than one non-family member) for 16-year-olds;

Extends the night-time driving limitation to midnight to 6 a.m. for 16-year-olds;

Requires children between 4 and 15 years of age to be restrained in either an approved child restraint system or in a safety belt.

WHEN DOES THE NEW LAW GO IN EFFECT?

Answer: The new law goes into effect on April 6, 2007.

CAN A 15 ½-YEAR-OLD GET A TEMPORARY LEARNER'S PERMIT?

Answer: Yes, the new law does not change the age for a learner's permit. It stays the same, 15 ½.

HOW DOES THIS NEW LAW AFFECT 16-YEAR-OLDS WHO HAVE OBTAINED A PROBATIONARY LICENSE?

Answer: The new law limits passengers for 16-year-olds to one not counting family members. It also changes the nighttime driving curfew for 16-year-olds to midnight to six a.m.

WHAT DOES A "PROBATIONARY LICENSE MEAN? IS THIS THE SAME AS

A "TEMPORARY LICENSE"? IS THIS A PART OF THE NEW LAW?

Answer: The term probationary license previously existed and reflects the status of the driver as being under age 18, when full licensure, without any restrictions, begins. It is not the same as a temporary license.

I HAVE A CHILD THAT WILL BE 17 WHEN SUB HOUSE BILL 343 GOES INTO EFFECT. SOMETIMES HE WORKS PAST 1 A.M. DOES HE NEED A NOTE IN ORDER TO LEGALLY DRIVE HOME FROM WORK AT THAT TIME? WHO SUPPLIES THE NOTE, THE PARENT OR THE EMPLOYER?

Answer: Yes, he will need a note to work past 1 a.m. A note from the employer is what the law specifies.

HOW DOES THE NEW LAW AFFECT DRIVERS EDUCATION CLASSES WITH MORE THAN ONE TEEN IN A CAR?

Answer: As long as a certified driving instructor is present, there is no effect on Drivers Education.

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