

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

House Bill Number 354

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Christy Squires
Authored by: Representative Christy Squires

House Committee: _____
House: _____
Senate Committee: _____
Senate: _____
Governor: _____

Delegation: Miles City

Referred to Committee: House Judiciary Committee

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "Reform the New Graduated License Laws."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

3 Section 1: Graduated Driver Licensing

4 Montana's graduated driver licensing law creates a ~~three-step~~ two-step program that allows new
5 drivers under the age of 18 years to safely develop and improve their driving skills. Each step
6 progressively increases the privileges and responsibilities of a new driver in an effort to reduce
7 the number of motor vehicle crashes involving minors.

8 Section 2: Step 1: Permit Period

9 • Age and Permits

- 10 ○ Teenagers may obtain a Traffic Education Learner's License (TELL) as early as
- 11 age 14½ years old only if they are in a state-approved traffic education program.
- 12 ○ Teenagers may get a Learner's License from a driver exam station if they meet all
- 13 of the following criteria:
- 14 ▪ are 15 years old and successfully complete a state-approved traffic
- 15 education program, or are 16 years or older
- 16 ▪ pass the required driver license tests
- 17 ▪ turn in any other driver licenses
- 18 ▪ have not had a license suspended, revoked or denied in any other state or
- 19 jurisdiction
- 20 ▪ pass the medical requirements for the type of driver license desired
- 21 ▪ have not been found by a court to be mentally incompetent, alcoholic
- 22 and/or a habitual user of illegal drugs

23 • Length of Permit

- 24 ○ A teenager must hold a permit for a minimum of ~~six~~ four consecutive months
- 25 before applying for a First-Year Restricted License.
- 26 ○ The permit is valid for up to one year.

27 • Conditions During Permit Stage

- 28 ○ Teen drivers must acquire at least 50 hours of supervised driving experience,
- 29 including 10 hours at night.

- 30 ○ A driver with a TELL permit must be supervised by a licensed parent or guardian.
- 31 ○ A driver with a Learner's License must be supervised by a licensed parent or
- 32 guardian, or a licensed driver age 18 years or older who is authorized by the
- 33 parent or guardian.
- 34 ○ Everyone in the vehicle must wear a seatbelt.
- 35 ○ The teen driver must not get any traffic violations for alcohol or drug offenses in
- 36 the six-month period before advancing to Step 2.

37 Section 3: ~~Step 2: First Year Restricted License~~

38 ~~When teens have satisfied all Step 1 requirements, they may apply for a First Year Restricted~~
39 ~~License at a driver exam station. They must:~~

- 40 ● ~~pay the associated fees~~
- 41 ● ~~bring all required documents, including the completed Graduated Driver Licensing Parent~~
42 ~~Certification form~~

43 ~~Initially, the driver's license will show a restriction code on the front and back. This restriction~~
44 ~~remains in effect for one year. During this period, the following restrictions apply:~~

- 45 ● ~~Everyone in the vehicle must wear a seatbelt.~~
- 46 ● ~~Teenage drivers may not drive between 11:00 p.m. and 5 a.m., with some exceptions:~~
 - 47 ○ ~~These exceptions including emergencies, farm-related activities, travel to and~~
 - 48 ~~from school, church or work, and specific parent authorized purposes.~~
 - 49 ○ ~~Law enforcement officials may contact the parent or guardian of a teen driver to~~
 - 50 ~~verify the purpose for which the teen is authorized to drive between 11:00 p.m.~~
 - 51 ~~and 5 a.m.~~
- 52 ● ~~For the first six months, unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older, a teenage~~
53 ~~driver may have only one unrelated passenger under age 18 in the vehicle.~~
- 54 ● ~~For the second six months, unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older, a~~
55 ~~teenage driver may have three unrelated passengers under age 18 in the vehicle.~~

56 ~~Penalties for Step 2 Violations~~

57 ~~Penalties for violating the license restrictions are:~~

- 58 ● ~~First Offense—between 20 and 60 hours of community service~~
- 59 ● ~~Second Offense—suspension of the teen's driver license for six months~~

60 Section 4: ~~Step 3: Step 2: Full Privilege Driver License~~

61 ~~First Year Restricted License- Permit Period~~ restrictions automatically end on the date indicated
62 on the back of the driver's license, or when the individual turns 18, whichever occurs first. Once
63 the teenager reaches ~~Step 3, Step 2~~ the driver license confers full privileges.

64 Section 5: This bill shall be enacted upon passage.

65 **-end-**