

California Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D) statement on AB 63

In 2013, in response to spiking traffic fatalities for young drivers, I authored a bill to extend the Provisional Driver License Program to drivers through age 20, which the governor vetoed. In his veto message, the governor asked the Office of Traffic Safety, the California Highway Patrol and the Department of Motor Vehicles to work together to come up with a plan to reduce young driver fatalities. This has not happened, yet young driver traffic fatalities continue to rise every year. So in 2017 I tried again with AB 63, which I authored in partnership with the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, whose 14,000 members witness fatal traffic accidents involving young drivers on our roads and highways every day. I am disappointed the governor did not trust the judgment of his own Highway Patrol officers, who strongly support extending the Provisional Driver License Program. It is also the will of the Legislature, which twice has approved this legislation and put it on his desk. This legislation has proven to save lives after it has been implemented in other states, where fatality rates have declined as much as 27 percent. The results of expanding Provisional Driver License Programs are dramatic and undisputed. At this time I have not decided if I will try again next year. We are looking at all options.