



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

Vote YES to Advance S 2789/A 3793 to Improve Safety for Novice Teen and Young Adult Drivers

The Dangerous, Deadly and Costly Problem:

- Motor vehicle crashes are a leading killer of teens in the U.S.ⁱ
- Teen and young adult novice drivers are more likely to be involved in fatal crashes because they lack driving experience and tend to take greater risks.
- Compared to more experienced drivers, teens are not as skilled at recognizing hazards and controlling the vehicle, resulting in more loss-of-control and run-off-road crashes.
- In 2021, 5,088 young drivers (age 15–20) were involved in fatal crashes, an increase of 11 percent over 2020.ⁱⁱ On average, more than eight teens were killed in the U.S. each day of 2021 as a result of motor vehicle crashes.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In New Jersey over the five-year period of 2018 through 2022, there were 313 fatalities in crashes involving drivers under the age of 21, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).^{iv}
- Teen drivers in New Jersey are about six percent of drivers but are involved in 13 percent of crashes.^v
- In crashes involving young drivers, fatalities totaled 5,565 in 2021, an increase of 10 percent from 2020.^{vi} Additionally, 203,256 young drivers were injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2021.^{vii}
- The estimated economic cost of police-reported crashes involving young drivers 15-20 years old was \$40.8 billion (2002).^{viii} When adjusted for inflation only, these costs amount to \$68.92 billion in 2023 dollars.^{ix}

The Proven Solution: Advance S 2789/A 3793 to Require Supervised Driving Hours for Teen and Young Adult Novice Drivers

- This requirement introduces teens to driving gradually by phasing in full driving privileges over time with the guidance of more experienced drivers.
- New Jersey is one of only three states (AR, MS) without any requirement for novice drivers to complete behind-the-wheel driver training with an adult licensed driver.
- Enacting **S 2789/A 3793** will close a dangerous gap in New Jersey's GDL law, make state roads safer for young drivers and all those who share the roads with them.
- Requiring 50 hours of supervised driving is estimated to reduce collision claims by 13 percent and fatal crashes by 3 percent.^x
- An Insurance Institute for Highway Safety survey found that parents favor GDL laws which are as strict as or even stricter than currently exist in any state.
- 74% of teens approve of a single comprehensive law which incorporates the key elements of GDL programs.

**Support S 2789/A 3793 to improve safety and save lives on New
Jersey roads!**

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- i Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Available at <https://wisqars-viz.cdc.gov:8006/explore-data/home>.
 - ii Traffic Safety Facts 2021 Data: Young Drivers, NHTSA, DOT HS 813 492, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813492>.
 - iii NHTSA: NCSA Fatality and Injury Reporting System Tool (FIRST), Query for All Persons Killed In Fatal Crashes, 2020 and 2021, by Age, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/query>.
 - iv NHTSA. State of New Jersey Highway Safety Plan, available at https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2023-10/NJ_FY24HSP-tag.pdf.
 - v The Facts About New Jersey Teen Driving, available at [Teen Driving Fact Sheet.pdf](#).
 - vi Traffic Safety Facts 2021 Data: Young Drivers, NHTSA, DOT HS 813 492, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813492>.
 - vii Traffic Safety Facts 2021 Data: Young Drivers, NHTSA, DOT HS 813 492, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813492>.
 - viii Traffic Safety Facts 2002: Young Drivers, NHTSA, DOT HS 809 619, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/809619>.
 - ix CPI Inflation Calculator, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, available at <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>
 - x IIHS GDL Crash Reduction Calculator available at: <https://www.iihs.org/topics/teenagers/gdl-calculator>.