



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement on Enactment of Law Improving New Jersey's Graduated Driver Licensing Program to Make Roads Safer for All

January 8, 2024 | Today, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (D) signed into law Senate Bill (S.) 2789/Assembly Bill (A.) 3793. The legislation was sponsored by Senators Nilsa Cruz-Perez (D-District 5) and Gordon Johnson (D-District 37) and Assembly Members Daniel Benson (D-District 14), Benjie Wimberly (D-District 35), Yvonne Lopez (D-District 19) and co-sponsored by Senators Patrick Diegnan Jr. (D-District 18) and Vin Gopal (D-District 11) and Assembly Members Bill Moen (D-District 5), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D-District 15) and Gabriela Mosquera (D-District 4). The new law will improve the state's graduated driver licensing (GDL) law by requiring 50 hours of supervised driving for novice teen and young adult drivers, 10 of which must be at night.

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for teens and young adults. Drivers aged 16 to 19 are three times as likely to be in a fatal crash. From 2018 through 2022, 313 crash fatalities in New Jersey involved drivers under age 21. The new law is estimated to reduce fatal crashes by three percent and collision claims by 13 percent.

"We applaud the New Jersey Legislature and Gov. Phil Murphy for enacting S. 2789/A. 3793. The loss of life or infliction of serious injury due to crashes involving teen or novice drivers is devastating, and often preventable. Supervised driving will better prepare young drivers who tend to take greater risks and lack experience, which is a dangerous combination. This crucial update to the state's GDL law will make roadways in New Jersey safer for all road users. We urge the state to keep up the momentum on

traffic safety and make further progress in the next session,” said Cathy Chase, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

“Graduated Driver Licensing laws are an essential tool for reducing teen driver crashes, injuries, and deaths,” said Erica Rosso, NJM Consumer Safety Partnership and Program Supervisor. “The revisions to New Jersey’s GDL laws will help bolster our collective efforts to ensure teen and novice drivers have increased opportunities to gain valuable driving experience and guidance that will help curtail fatal crashes.”

“Selective Insurance Company applauds the New Jersey legislature and Governor Phil Murphy for passing a law that brings New Jersey up to the national norm, requiring 50 hours of supervised driving for teens and young adults,” said Allen Anderson, Senior Vice President, Chief Underwriting Officer, Personal Lines, Selective. “Drivers have many distractions to contend with, so it’s vital we provide novice drivers as much practice and training as possible. This new law is a positive step in making our New Jersey roads safer to save lives.”

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Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety is an alliance of consumer, medical, public health, law enforcement and safety groups and insurance companies and agents working together to make America’s roads safer. Advocates’ mission is the adoption of federal and state laws, policies and programs that prevent motor vehicle crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs. Advocates is based in Washington, DC. For more information, visit www.saferoads.org

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