

S.B. NO. 2760

JAN 25 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DRIVER LICENSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that young drivers, ages
2 16 and 17 years, have been overrepresented in motor vehicle
3 traffic fatalities and injuries. Since January 9, 2006, when
4 Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, the driver licensing law
5 creating the provisional license requirement for young drivers
6 took effect, the number of young licensees has decreased by 10
7 per cent from 2005 to 2006 and by 4 per cent from 2006 to 2007.
8 The average per cent of drivers in this age group involved in
9 motor vehicle collisions from 2003 through 2005 was 3.98 per
10 cent as compared to the post-provisional license period of 2006
11 - 2007 of 3.30 per cent, a .68 per cent decrease. The traffic
12 fatalities for the 16 and 17-year old group also had a
13 significant decrease. In the pre-provisional years 2003-2005,
14 there were 15 traffic fatalities as compared to the post-
15 provisional years 2006-2007 of 4 fatalities. This represented
16 a 73 per cent reduction in traffic fatalities in this age group.
17 The legislature finds that the provisional requirements of
18 driver licensing has made a significant change in young drivers

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1 16 and 17 years. By changing the age at which a young driver
2 may obtain a driver's license and giving the young driver more
3 education about driving and imposing more restrictions on
4 driving, the risk of being involved in a motor vehicle collision
5 has been reduced, thereby saving more lives. It is evident that
6 the provisional licensing tier has made a significant difference
7 in saving the life of the young driver. It not only formed an
8 acceptable behavior of driving among this age group but reduced
9 the driving risks and deaths of the young in motor vehicle
10 collisions.

11 The purpose of this bill is to delete the repeal provisions
12 of Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, and make the provisional
13 licensing a permanent requirement.

14 SECTION 2. Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, is amended
15 by amending section 15 to read as follows:

16 "SECTION 15. This Act shall take effect on January 9,
17 2006 [~~; provided that on January 9, 2011, this Act shall be~~
18 ~~repealed and sections 286-102, 286-104, 286-106, 286-108, 286-~~
19 ~~110, 286-111, 286-112, 286-113, 286-114, and 286-117, Hawaii~~
20 ~~Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form in which they~~
21 ~~read on the day before the effective date of this Act]."~~

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1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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BY REQUEST

Report Title:

Highway; Safety; Graduated Driver Licensing; Sunset Provision

Description:

Delete the sunset provisions of Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, which established provisional licenses for 16 and 17-year old drivers and continue the graduated driver licensing (GDL) program that will reduce the amount of traffic fatalities among the young drivers (16 and 17-year old).

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DRIVER LICENSING.

PURPOSE: To delete the sunset provisions of Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, which established provisional licenses for 16 and 17-year old drivers.

MEANS: Amend section 15 of Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005.

JUSTIFICATION: Young drivers (15-20 years old) continue to be over represented in the number of motor vehicle collisions in the United States. In the latest data released from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for 2008, this age group (15-20 years) accounted for 2,739 of the driver traffic fatalities and an additional 228,000 were injured in vehicle crashes. Despite these alarming statistics, this is a 20 per cent decrease in fatalities from 1998. This decrease was mainly due to the graduated driver licensing (GDL) program. Presently, there are 49 states and the District of Columbia that has a GDL program; the only state that does not have a program is North Dakota.

Hawaii has contributed to the decrease in deaths of young drivers in motor vehicle crashes because of its GDL program. A driver licensing analysis shows a sharp decrease in 16 and 17-year old licensees in 2001 because of stricter licensing requirements and again in 2006 due to the implementation of the GDL. The number of traffic fatalities among 16 and 17-year old drivers prior to the GDL program was 15 (2003-2005) versus 4 (2006-2007) after implementation. Because the GDL program requires education and supervision on the first level of licensing and driving

restrictions on the second level, the risk of being involved in a collision is reduced. It is expected that by retaining the GDL program, there will be fewer traffic fatalities and injuries in the future.

Impact on the public: Will reduce the amount of traffic fatalities among the young drivers (16 and 17-year old) and will also reduce the traffic fatalities of drivers in all other age groups.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
None.

GENERAL FUND:

None.

OTHER FUNDS:

None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION:

TRN 597.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES:

County Police Departments and County Prosecutors.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon approval.