

Key components to strengthening Kansas' licensing policy

TWELVE-MONTH LEARNER'S PERMIT

Based upon licensing updates made in other states, we know that a one-year, adult-supervised learning period stands to reduce the number of teen crashes on Kansas roads by up to 50%. By incorporating a 12-month learner's permit phase into our licensing policy, Kansas teens will be better equipped for the lifelong responsibility of driving.

SIX-MONTH PASSENGER LIMITATION

The risk of death among teen drivers more than doubles when there are two passengers in the vehicle and more than triples when there are three passengers. By limiting young drivers to one teen passenger during the first six months of unrestricted driving, Kansas teens will be better equipped to manage distractions on the road.

SIX-MONTH LATE-NIGHT DRIVING LIMITATION

The research tells us that late-night driving poses a serious risk for young drivers. In fact, teens are twice as likely to die in a car crash during late-night hours. National statistics show that almost half of teen crash fatalities occur after 9 p.m. By limiting driving after 9 p.m. to work and school purposes during the first six months of unrestricted driving, we stand to significantly reduce the number of fatalities among Kansas teens.

EXISTING FARM PERMIT

Given our state's agricultural roots, this proposal would leave the existing Farm Permit intact to best meet the needs of Kansas farm families.

Bringing Kansas up to speed

Driving conditions have changed. Speed limits have increased. Cars are more powerful. And, Kansans spend nearly twice as much time on the road as they did just two decades ago. But, one thing hasn't changed — our drivers licensing system.

Modern driving conditions require an updated licensing system. There's a no-cost step we can take that will:

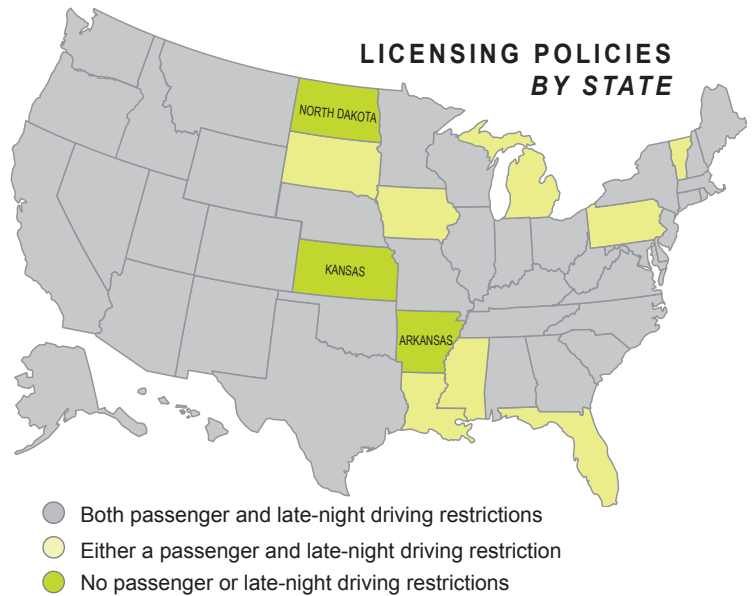
- Bring Kansas up to speed
- Make three simple, yet effective, changes to our licensing system
- Result in safer roads and reduced medical costs for all of us

KANSAS IS LAGGING BEHIND

Right now, Kansas is lagging behind most of the nation when it comes to preparing teens for the lifelong responsibility of driving. While 47 other states have updated their licensing systems, Kansas is among the three states that have not. By making a few simple, yet effective, changes to our licensing system, we can provide Kansas teens with the same level of driving experience as teens in neighboring states.

THREE SIMPLE STEPS

Most states have updated their licensing systems by implementing a three-stage approach — called a Graduated Drivers



Licensing system or GDL — that addresses the three greatest risks to young drivers: inexperience, multiple passengers in the vehicle and late-night driving. By addressing these three risks in our state's licensing system, we stand to significantly reduce the number of car crashes on Kansas roads.

SAFER ROADS, REDUCED MEDICAL COSTS FOR ALL OF US

Every year, more than 7,000 Kansas teens — a number twice the size of Kansas State University's freshman class — are injured or killed in car crashes. We know that fewer crashes mean fewer medical costs. In fact, almost 85% of medical costs for crash victims fall on society, increasing health insurance premiums for all of us. And, nationally, employers spend \$9 billion per year in health care costs associated with crash injuries.

