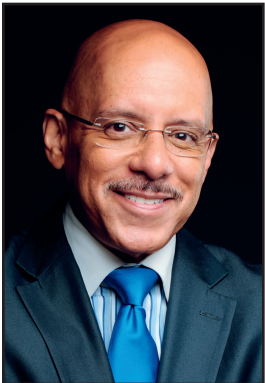


Pennsylvania's
**TEEN
DRIVING
LAW**



Provided by **State Senator VINCENT HUGHES**



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PENNSYLVANIA'S TEEN DRIVING LAW

REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

- ◆ Permit holders 18 and under, must wait at least six months before taking the test.
- ◆ Holders of learner's permits and junior licenses are restricted from driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- ◆ **As of Dec. 27, 2011**, for the first six months after receiving their junior driver's license, a driver is not permitted to have more than one passenger under age 18 who is not an immediate family member (brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister of the junior driver and adopted or foster children living in the same household as the junior driver) in their vehicle unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- ◆ If they have any convictions or are partially or fully responsible for a reportable crash while a junior driver, they are once again restricted to one passenger.
- ◆ Learner's permits are valid for one year.
- ◆ The driver supervising a permit holder must be 21 years of age or older.
- ◆ **As of Dec. 27, 2011**, permit holders must spend at least 65 hours behind the wheel to receive a license. Ten of those hours must consist of nighttime driving and five hours must be driven in poor weather conditions.
- ◆ A suspension of 90 days is mandatory for junior license holders who accumulate six points or more or are convicted of one high-speed violation (26 miles per hour or more over the speed limit).
- ◆ Unrestricted licenses are available for those age 17 1/2 who are crash- and conviction-free for 12 months and who have completed an approved driver's education course.
- ◆ **As of Dec. 27, 2011**, drivers and occupants in a vehicle who are under the age of 18 must wear a seat belt. Failure to comply with the law's seat belt provisions is a primary offense.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ◆ **Can a teen with an out-of-state learner's permit take the test for a license in Pennsylvania?**
No. A driver must have a Pennsylvania learner's permit to take the test in Pennsylvania. That means the driver must pass the physical exam, vision screening and knowledge test in Pennsylvania before he or she is issued a permit.
- ◆ **What is the cost of a learner's permit?**
The cost of a permit is \$5.
- ◆ **How do parents or guardians certify the number of supervised driving hours for a teen driver?**
Parents and guardians are required to certify their son or daughter has acquired at least 65 hours of supervised driving at the time of the road test. Guidebooks for parents – which include a driving log for keeping track of teen driving hours – are available at all PennDOT licensing centers.
- ◆ **Are hours spent in driver's education courses counted toward the required 65 hours?**
Only those hours spent actually driving (usually six hours in most courses) but not time spent sitting in a classroom may be counted.
- ◆ **Can anyone age 21 or over legally supervise a permit holder or must the supervising driver be a parent or guardian?**
Any licensed driver 21 or over can be a supervising adult, but the parent or guardian is the one responsible for certifying that the required number of hours have been completed.
- ◆ **What if a junior license holder's job requires him or her to be out past 11 p.m.?**
A certificate of authorization or affidavit from the driver's employer documenting his or her work schedule is required. The driver must carry the document at all times. This exception also applies to firefighters or volunteers for charitable services.
- ◆ **Is parental consent required for anyone under 18 to obtain a license?**
Yes. Consent must be granted by a parent, legal guardian, spouse age 18 or older, or person acting in loco parentis.
- ◆ **Must permit holders age 18 and over wait six months to obtain a license?**
No, but PennDOT encourages all new drivers, regardless of age, to acquire as much driving experience as possible before taking the road test.