

Senate Bill 12 – Lowering Pennsylvania’s Driving Age to 15

2 lawmakers propose lowering driving age to 15 years old in Pennsylvania

The legislation would subject a 15-year-old to the same "extensive training and safety measures" that are currently in place.

<https://6abc.com/post/pennsylvania-driving-age-pa-15-year-old-drivers-teen-employment-state-lawmakers/12831367/>

By: 6abc Digital Staff

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HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (WPVI) -- Two Pennsylvania lawmakers want to lower the legal driving age in the state from 16 years old to 15 years old.

Democratic State Representative Stephen Kinsey of Philadelphia and Republican State Representative Eric Nelson of western Pennsylvania issued a memo to colleagues.

They argue the current legal driving age prevents teenagers from working and prohibits employment choices.

"While state law allows young people in Pennsylvania to begin working before they are 16 years old, it limits their employment choices by prohibiting them from driving until the age of 16," they wrote in the memo.

"If Pennsylvania teens wish to work and are legally permitted to do so, they should not be denied the right to travel to their place of employment," the memo continued.

Kinsey and Neslon say their legislation would subject a 15-year-old driver to the same "extensive training and safety measures" that are currently in place for young drivers.

That includes passenger limitations and nighttime driving restrictions.

"Three neighboring states - West Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland - recognize the societal contributions that individuals under 16 can make by allowing them to get their learner's permits," the lawmakers wrote.

"Joining these states would mean more financial empowerment for Pennsylvania's youth and more tax revenue for the state."

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OH: Risk to Public Safety Comes With Bill to Reduce Minimum Driving Age

<https://saferoads.org/2025-ohio-gdl-hb463/>

October 21, 2025

Advocates has sent a letter to the Ohio House Transportation Committee urging members to oppose House Bill (HB) 463. This measure will reduce the minimum driving age by six months to 15 years old and weaken supervised driving requirements for novice drivers. In doing so, it will erode the graduated driver licensing (GDL) law and threaten the safety of novice teen drivers and all who share the roads with them.

Teenagers drive less than all but the oldest drivers, yet their number of crashes and crash deaths are disproportionately high. Per mile driven, teen drivers have crash rates nearly four times higher than drivers aged 20 and older. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), teens are more likely to misjudge dangerous situations or to not be able to recognize hazardous situations. Teens tend to speed, follow too closely, and underestimate speed and stopping distances. Moreover, compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use.

Conversely, we support the provisions of HB 463 which increase the temporary instruction permit validity period by six months and require that it be held for a year, an increase of six months, before a driver can be eligible for a probationary license. However, we cannot support these changes in a context where the minimum driving age is decreased by six months. Based on IIHS research, the best practices for GDL include a minimum permit age of 16 and a minimum intermediate license age of 17. Delaying the minimum age for obtaining a learner’s permit was associated with lower fatal crash rates for 15- to 17-year-olds combined, and a one-year delay (e.g., from age 15 to 16) reduced the fatal crash rate by 13 percent. Rather than exacerbate the dangers associated with teen driving, we urge members to instead consider making these changes to upgrade safety.