

COMPARISON OF COG REGION GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS WITH AAA GUIDELINES

Graduated driver licensing (GDL) systems are designed to teach novice drivers how to drive incrementally by controlling their progression towards full unrestricted driving. The system ensures that new drivers accumulate behind-the-wheel experience in low-risk settings. Typically, novice drivers progress through the following three stages: the learner's permit stage, a restricted or probationary license stage, and the full license stage. AAA's guidelines for each stage are described below.

STAGE 1 - LEARNER'S PERMIT. In this stage, the novice driver practices basic driving skills and safe driving practices under totally supervised conditions.

| AAA Recommendation | Georgia | District of Columbia | Maryland | Virginia |
|---|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| At least 16 years old. | 15 years old | 16 years old | 15 years, 9 months | 15years, 6 months |
| Written permission from parents or legal guardian. | Required | Required | Required | Required |
| Mandatory six month holding period | exceed | exceed | exceed | exceed |
| Supervised at all times by a licensed driver at least 21 years old. | Licensed driver at least 21 | Adult over 21 with license | Adult licensed for min. of 3 years | Parent or other adult (secondary enforcement) |
| All vehicle occupants required to wear their seat belts. | Under 18 or in front seat | required | requires seatbelts for all | Seat belts required for passengers under 16 or in front seat |
| Required to take a basic driver education course. | Required if under 17 | Required | Required | Required |
| At least 50 hours (including night time driving) of certified practice | 40 hours | 50 hours | 60 hours | 40 hours |
| Remain at-fault crash and conviction free for at least six months before progressing to the next stage. | No major convictions 12 months (4 points) | required | required | Required; if 2 moving violations license is suspended until age 18 |
| Not be permitted to use telecommunications devices | no cell phone limitation | cell phone use prohibited | cell phone use prohibited if under 18 | cell phone use prohibited if under 18 |

STAGE 2 - INTERMEDIATE/PROBATIONARY LICENSE. This stage exposes the driver to more demanding driving situations by providing the driver the opportunity to use his or her decision making skills by allowing unsupervised driving during lower risk times.

| AAA Recommendation | Georgia | District of Columbia | Maryland | Virginia |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Successful completion of the first stage | required | required | required | required |
| Minimum age 16 and a half | age 16 | age 16 years 6 months | age 16 years 3 months | age 16 years 3 months |
| Pass a road test given by an approved licensing agency. | required | required | required | Required. Given as part of the driver education course |
| Six month minimum holding period | 1 year | 6 months | 6 months | 9 months |
| Restricted from driving between at least 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by an adult | midnight to 6 am | 11:00-6am school nights, 12-6 weekends and summer | 12:00-5:00 | 12:00-4:00; |
| No more than one teen passenger for the first six months. | no passengers except family 6 months, 3 passengers under 21 except family 6 months | no passengers unless supervised by adult 6 months, 2 passengers except family 6 months | no passengers under 18 except family 5 months, secondary enforcement | 1 passenger under 18 first 12 months, 3 passengers under 18 until age 18 |
| All vehicle occupants required to wear their seat belts. | Under 18 or in front seat | requires seatbelts for all | requires seatbelts for all | Seat belts required for passengers under 16 or in front seat; secondary enforcement |
| (at-fault) crash and conviction free for at least six months before progressing to the next stage | 12 months | 12 months | 18 months | 1 year; 3 rd offense suspended until 18 |
| Not be permitted to use telecommunications devices | | cell phone use prohibited | cell phone use prohibited if under 18 | cell phone use prohibited if under 18 |

STAGE 3 - FULL/UNRESTRICTED LICENSE. This license allows the driver unrestricted driving privileges.

| AAA Recommendation | Georgia | District of Columbia | Maryland | Virginia |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| minimum age of 18. | age 18 | age 18 | age 17 and 9 months | age 17 |
| successful completion stage 2 | required | required | required | required |