

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ENACTMENT OF LAWS FOR
THE LICENSING OF YOUNG DRIVERS**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has a long history of supporting region-wide policies to improve traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, prior COG actions have included the adoption in 1984 of Resolution R38-84, endorsing a uniform drinking age of twenty-one (21); the adoption of Resolution R37-97, endorsing the adoption of .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit in the state of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia; the adoption of Resolution R14-04, endorsing enactment of laws that are scientifically proven to be effective in reducing impaired driving; a Transportation Safety Workshop in 2004; and regional alcohol and traffic safety public education initiatives in partnership with other public and community efforts; and

WHEREAS, more recent COG efforts have included regular reports on highway safety, impaired driving, young drivers and collaboration with WRAP and other traffic education groups in support of the region's traffic safety enforcement and public awareness campaigns to reduce traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, scientific research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and many traffic safety agencies and organizations have shown graduated drivers licensing (GDL) to be effective in reducing crashes involving young drivers; and

WHEREAS, the state of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia have all enacted forms of graduated drivers licensing; to date controls not in place or not consistent throughout the region include:

- o *Minimum age of 16 years to obtain a learner's permit*
- o *Minimum 50 hours of behind-the-wheel experience prior to receiving a provisional license*
- o *Minimum age 16 and a half years to obtain a provisional license*
- o *Minimum age of 18 to obtain a full license*
- o *Curfew for drivers under 18 be from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM; exceptions are made for work and school related activities*
- o *Limit of one passenger for the first 6 months of unsupervised driving with primary enforcement*
- o *Require all passengers to wear seatbelts with primary enforcement*

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia and Maryland have a minimum age of 16 to obtain a learners permit and require 50 or more hours of behind the wheel experience; and the District of Columbia has a minimum age for learners permit of 16 years, and a minimum age of 16 and a half years for a provisional license; and the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia have a minimum age of 18 for a full drivers license.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The State of Maryland is urged to adopt minimum standard requirements for graduated licensing to include a limit of one passenger for the first 6 months with primary enforcement; a minimum age of 16 years for learners permit; minimum age of 16 and a half years for a provisional license; minimum age 18 for a full drivers license; and a curfew for drivers under 18 from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM;
2. The Commonwealth of Virginia is urged to adopt minimum standard requirements for graduated licensing to include a minimum age of 16 for a learners permit; a minimum of 50 hours of behind the wheel experience to qualify for a provisional license; a minimum age of 16 and a half years to obtain a provisional license; a minimum age of 18 to obtain a full license; a requirement that all passengers to wear seatbelts with primary enforcement; and a curfew for drivers under 18 from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM;
3. The District of Columbia is urged to adopt minimum standard requirements for graduated licensing to include a curfew for drivers under 18 from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM; and
4. Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governors, the Mayor and all COG jurisdictions; and
5. Local governments and schools systems are urged to promote education of both students and parents about the laws of licensing for young drivers.
