

**New Teen Driving Restrictions
Effective 08/01/2008**



As of August 1, 2008 the teenage driving laws in the state of Connecticut have changed and have gotten tougher. The fines have increased and Police Officers now have the authority to physically take custody of the teen's driver's license directly on the spot. Once the license is confiscated, the license becomes suspended and only the Department of Motor Vehicles can reinstate the license, however, that will be an additional fee of approximately \$125.00

Governor Rell has developed a task force specifically designed to make teen drivers safer, due to recent years drastic increase in teen deaths and serious injury accidents.

Statistics about Connecticut show that the crash rate per 10,000 population for 16-17 year-olds is about 50% higher than the crash rate for 35-49 years olds; and approximately 75% of 16-17 year olds were found at fault in crashes.

Curfew: This curfew is for 16 & 17 year old driver's who received a driver's license on or after August 1, 2008. 11:00 p.m to 5 a:m unless the teen is traveling for employment, school, religious activities, medical necessity, or if the individual is an assigned driver in the safe ride program.

(Those who received a license prior to August 1, 2008 are subject to the passenger restrictions and curfew that were in place at that time.)

Passenger Restrictions: During the first *six* months the newly licensed driver may not have ANY passengers in the vehicle except for:

- A licensed driving instructor giving directions
OR
- His or her parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom holds a valid driver's license OR
- One person who is providing instruction and is at least 20 years old, has held a driver's license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended during the four years prior to training.

During the second six months (months 7 through 12) the only additional passengers allowed in the vehicle are members of the driver's immediate family.

In addition to the laws above, learners permit holders and 16 & 17 year old licensed drivers may

NOT:

- transport more passengers than the number of seatbelts in the vehicle
- Operate any vehicle that requires a public passenger transportation permit or vanpool vehicle

- Use a cell phone (even if it is hands free) or mobile electronic device while driving
- Transport any passenger on a motorcycle for six months after the issuance of a motorcycle endorsement

The above mentioned restrictions do not apply to persons who are active members of a volunteer fire company or department, a volunteer ambulance service or company, or an emergency medical service organization who are responding to an emergency call or carrying out duties as an active member

New Penalties for 16 & 17 year Olds

Seat belt: drivers 16 & 17 years old and each of their passengers are required to wear a seat belt. If either the driver or the passenger fails to wear the seat belt, each could be cited for a seat belt violation and fined \$75.00

Passenger Restrictions: 1st offense 30 day suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee plus cost of the ticket. 2nd Offense and all subsequent offenses- 6 month suspension or until 18, whichever is longer plus \$125.00 License restoration fee and cost of ticket. **Cost of ticket is \$158.00**

More passengers than seat belts: 1st offense 30 day suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee plus cost of the ticket. 2nd Offense and all subsequent offenses-

6 month suspension or until 18, whichever is longer plus \$125.00 License restoration fee and cost of ticket

Cell Phone/Text Messaging: 1st offense 30 day suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee plus cost of the ticket. 2nd Offense 90 day suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee and cost of ticket. 3rd offense 6 month suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee plus cost of the ticket.

Speeding (20 mph over) 1st Offense 60 day suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee plus cost of the ticket. 2nd Offense 90 day suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee and cost of ticket. 3rd offense 6 month suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee plus cost of the ticket. (Note: cost of ticket alone could be as much as \$300.00)

Reckless Driving: 1st offense 6 month suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both. 2nd offense and subsequent others automatic 1 year suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year or both.

Street Racing: 1st offense 6 month suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both. 2nd

offense and subsequent others 1 year suspension plus \$125.00 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year or both.

DWI: the administrative license suspension for a 16 or 17 year old who drives under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will be no less than 1 year if he or she submitted to the test or analysis and had an elevated blood alcohol content (BAC) equal to or over .02. If the 16 or 17 year old refuses to submit to the test, the suspension will be 18 months. (Note: that does not include the arrest penalties and life long arrest record as well as a possibility of public shame having your arrest public information and in the local newspaper)

Youthful Offender Status: Under the new law, effective August 1, 2008, someone under the age of 18 who commits the following cannot be considered a youthful offender: (Note: in laymen's terms, that simply means the violator will be tried as an adult).

Negligent Homicide with a motor vehicle:

Evading responsibility following an accident that results in death or serious injury:

Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs. In addition under the new law, effective August 1, 2008, any youth adjudicated as a youthful offender for the following

offenses shall have their records disclosed to DMV for the purpose of imposing a driver's license suspension:

Reckless Driving

Operating under the influence

Evading responsibility following an accident that involves death or serious injury

Street Racing

Disregarding a police officer's signal to stop

The following are verbatim from the Connecticut General Statutes.

Sec. 53a-56b. Manslaughter in the second degree with a motor vehicle: Class C felony. (a) A person is guilty of manslaughter in the second degree with a motor vehicle when, while operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, he causes the death of another person as a consequence of the effect of such liquor or drug.

(b) Manslaughter in the second degree with a motor vehicle is a class C felony and the court shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of any person found guilty under this section for one year.

Sec. 14-222. Reckless driving. (a) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public highway of the state, or any road of any specially chartered municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more or upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a **or upon any school property recklessly, having regard to the width, traffic and use of such highway, road, school property or parking area, the intersection of streets and the weather conditions.** The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or parking area for ten cars or more at such a rate of speed as to endanger the life of any person other than the operator of such motor vehicle, or the operation, downgrade, upon any highway, of any motor vehicle with a commercial registration with the clutch or gears disengaged, or the operation knowingly

of a motor vehicle with defective mechanism, shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this section. The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or parking area for ten cars or more at a rate of speed greater than eighty-five miles per hour shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this section.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned for the first offense and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not more than six hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and imprisoned.

Sec. 14-223. Failure to bring motor vehicle to full stop when signaled. Disregard of signal. Penalty. (a) Whenever the operator of any motor vehicle fails promptly to bring his motor vehicle to a full stop upon the signal of any officer in uniform or prominently displaying the badge of his office, or disobeys the direction of such officer with relation to the operation of his motor vehicle, he shall be deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined thirty-five dollars for a first offense and shall be fined not less than thirty-five dollars nor more than fifty dollars for any subsequent offense.

(b) No person operating a motor vehicle, when signaled to stop by an officer in a police vehicle using an audible signal device or flashing or revolving lights, shall increase the speed of the motor vehicle in an attempt to escape or elude such police officer. Any person who violates this subsection shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, except that, if such violation causes the death or serious physical injury, as defined in section 53a-3, of another person, such person shall be guilty of a class D felony, and shall have such person's motor vehicle operator's license suspended for one year for the first offense, except that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may, after a hearing, as provided for in subsection (k) of section 14-111, and upon a showing of compelling mitigating circumstances, reinstate such person's license before the expiration of such one-year period. For any subsequent offense such person shall be guilty of a class D felony, except that if any prior offense by such person under this subsection caused, and such subsequent offense causes, the death or serious physical injury, as defined in section 53a-3, of another person, such person shall be guilty of a class D felony for which one year of the sentence imposed may not be suspended or reduced by the court, and shall have such person's motor vehicle operator's license suspended for not less than eighteen months nor more than two years, except that said commissioner may, after a hearing, as provided for in subsection (k) of section 14-111, and upon a showing of compelling mitigating circumstances, reinstate such person's license before such period.

Sec. 14-224. Evasion of responsibility in operation of motor vehicles. Racing. Required removal of motor vehicle from traveled portion of highway. (a) Each person operating a motor vehicle who is knowingly involved in an accident which causes serious physical injury, as defined in section 53a-3, to or results in the death of any other person shall at once stop and render such assistance as may be needed and shall give his name, address and operator's license number and registration number to the person injured or to any officer or witness to the death or serious physical injury of any person,

and if such operator of the motor vehicle causing the death or serious physical injury of any person is unable to give his name, address and operator's license number and registration number to the person injured or to any witness or officer, for any reason or cause, such operator shall immediately report such death or serious physical injury of any person to a police officer, a constable, a state police officer or an inspector of motor vehicles or at the nearest police precinct or station, and shall state in such report the location and circumstances of the accident causing the death or serious physical injury of any person and his name, address, operator's license number and registration number.

(b) Each person operating a motor vehicle who is knowingly involved in an accident which causes physical injury, as defined in section 53a-3, to any other person or injury or damage to property shall at once stop and render such assistance as may be needed and shall give his name, address and operator's license number and registration number to the person injured or to the owner of the injured or damaged property, or to any officer or witness to the physical injury to person or injury or damage to property, and if such operator of the motor vehicle causing the physical injury of any person or injury or damage to any property is unable to give his name, address and operator's license number and registration number to the person injured or the owner of the property injured or damaged, or to any witness or officer, for any reason or cause, such operator shall immediately report such physical injury of any person or injury or damage to property to a police officer, a constable, a state police officer or an inspector of motor vehicles or at the nearest police precinct or station, and shall state in such report the location and circumstances of the accident causing the physical injury of any person or the injury or damage to property and his name, address, operator's license number and registration number.

(c) (1) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any public highway for a wager or for any race or for the purpose of making a speed record.

(2) No person shall (A) possess a motor vehicle under circumstances manifesting an intent that it be used in a race or event prohibited under subdivision (1) of this subsection, (B) act as a starter, timekeeper, judge or spectator at a race or event prohibited under subdivision (1) of this subsection, or (C) wager on the outcome of a race or event prohibited under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(d) Each person operating a motor vehicle who is knowingly involved in an accident on a limited access highway which causes damage to property only shall immediately move or cause his motor vehicle to be moved from the traveled portion of the highway to an untraveled area which is adjacent to the accident site if it is possible to move the motor vehicle without risk of further damage to property or injury to any person.

(e) No person who acts in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section may be considered to have violated subsection (b) of this section.

(f) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or be imprisoned not less than one year nor more

than ten years or be both fined and imprisoned.

(g) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be fined not less than seventy-five dollars nor more than six hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and imprisoned, and for any subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and imprisoned.

Sec. 14-227a. Operation while under the influence of liquor or drug or while having an elevated blood alcohol content. (a) **Operation while under the influence or while having an elevated blood alcohol content.** No person shall operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both. A person commits the offense of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both if such person operates a motor vehicle (1) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (2) while such person has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and "motor vehicle" includes a snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle, as those terms are defined in section 14-379.

Penalties for operation while under the influence. Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section shall: (1) For conviction of a first violation, (A) be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars, and (B) be (i) imprisoned not more than six months, **forty-eight consecutive hours of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner**, or (ii) imprisoned not more than six months, with the execution of such sentence of imprisonment suspended entirely and a period of probation imposed requiring as a condition of such probation that such person perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, and (C) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for one year; (2) **for conviction of a second violation** within ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than one thousand dollars or more than four thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than two years, **one hundred twenty consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner**, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for three years or until the date of such person's twenty-first birthday, whichever is longer, or (ii) if such person has been convicted of a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section on account of being under the influence of intoxicating liquor or of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for one year and be prohibited for the two-year period following completion of such period of suspension from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j; and (3) for conviction of a third and subsequent violation within ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than two thousand dollars or more than eight

thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than three years, one year of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, and (C) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege permanently revoked upon such third offense. For purposes of the imposition of penalties for a second or third and subsequent offense pursuant to this subsection, a conviction under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section in effect on October 1, 1981, or as amended thereafter, a conviction under the provisions of either subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, a conviction under the provisions of section 53a-56b or 53a-60d or a conviction in any other state of any offense the essential elements of which are determined by the court to be substantially the same as subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section or section 53a-56b or 53a-60d, shall constitute a prior conviction for the same offense.

(h) Suspension of operator's license or nonresident operating privilege. (1) Each court shall report each conviction under subsection (a) of this section to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-141. The commissioner shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of the person reported as convicted for the period of time required by subsection (g) of this section. The commissioner shall determine the period of time required by said subsection (g) based on the number of convictions such person has had within the specified time period according to such person's driving history record, notwithstanding the sentence imposed by the court for such conviction. (2) The motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of a person found guilty under subsection (a) of this section who is under eighteen years of age shall be suspended by the commissioner for the period of time set forth in subsection (g) of this section, or until such person attains the age of eighteen years, whichever period is longer. (3) The motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of a person found guilty under subsection (a) of this section who, at the time of the offense, was operating a motor vehicle in accordance with a special operator's permit issued pursuant to section 14-37a shall be suspended by the commissioner for twice the period of time set forth in subsection (g) of this section. (4) If an appeal of any conviction under subsection (a) of this section is taken, the suspension of the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege by the commissioner, in accordance with this subsection, shall be stayed during the pendency of such appeal.

