

New Jersey
Teen Driver Study Commission

In March 2007, Governor Jon S. Corzine enacted legislation creating the New Jersey Teen Driver Study Commission. The Commission has been charged with conducting a comprehensive review of teen driving in New Jersey and making recommendations that will ultimately reduce crashes and save lives. The Commission is comprised of a cross-section of the community that includes state legislators; school administrators; government (Highway Traffic Safety and Motor Vehicle Commission) and law enforcement officials; AAA, driving school and insurance industry professionals; as well as a teen driver and a representative of the PTA.

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens. Driver inexperience, speed, distractions (cell phones, texting, passengers), and lack of seat belt use are all leading factors in teen driver crashes, resulting in injuries and fatalities. Recognizing this, the Commission is carefully analyzing the State's Graduated Driver License (GDL) to ensure that teens have the opportunity to gain behind-the-wheel experience while limiting their exposure to distractions and dangerous behavior.

In addition to the GDL, the Commission is reviewing driver education programs in New Jersey and is expected to make recommendations about minimum standards and curriculum, including both classroom and behind-the-wheel education. Significant attention is also being given to parental involvement, teen driver identification, enforcement, and appropriate sanctions.

Meeting bi-weekly, the Commission has convened several expert panels, including police officers, driver education teachers, trauma surgeons, and court officials, to gather data and gain critical insight into this issue. The public is invited to share their ideas with the Commission at a series of public hearings scheduled for November and early December in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of the State.

The Commission is expected to issue its final report with recommendations to Governor Corzine by March 2008.

Members of the public may send their thoughts and ideas regarding teen driver safety to: Teen Driver Study Commission, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, P.O. Box 048, Trenton, NJ 08625-0048. The Commission members are committed to ensuring the safety of New Jersey's young drivers. Additional information about the Commission is available on the Division's website at: www.njsaferoads.com.