



ACT 81 of 2011

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is changing?

A. As of December 24, 2011, Pennsylvania's graduated driver's licensing program for young drivers will be changed with regards to the amount of training a young driver will need, who can be in the vehicle once the young driver gets a junior license and the requirement for the young driver and passengers under 18 to wear seat belts becomes a primary offense. The changes are in Act 81 of 2011.

Q. What are the details about hours?

A. The requirement for 50 hours of supervised behind-the-wheel skill-building increases to 65 hours. And for the first time, 10 of the hours must be at night and five additional hours in poor weather conditions.

Q. Who is required to give the training?

A. A responsible licensed driver age 21 or older.

Q. How do they check the length of the training?

A. When the young person takes the driving test, a parent or legal guardian must sign a certification form (DL-180C) that the young driver has had the 65 hours of training.

Q. What if I fail my skills test and cannot reschedule before December 24, 2011?

A. If you fail your skills tests and cannot reschedule before December 24, 2011, you are subject to the training requirements of the new law; 65 hours of behind-the-wheel skill-building, including 10 hours of night-time and five hours of bad weather driving.

Q. If I fail my skills test and cannot reschedule before December 24, do I need to start logging supervised behind-the-wheel skills building all over again?

A. No, however, you will need to have a parent or guardian complete a certification form (DL-180C) stating that you have had your additional 10 hours of nighttime driving and five hours of driving in bad weather.

Q. Does driving one hour at night in bad weather count as two hours?

A. No, it counts as one hour. The law requires a minimum of 10 hours of driving at night **and** five hours of driving in bad weather.

Q. What is changing regarding passenger restrictions?

A. A person with a junior driver's license (under 18) cannot have more than one non-family member under 18 in the vehicle with them when they are driving. After the expiration of the first six months from issuance of the junior driver's license, and if the young driver has had no reportable crashes or traffic violations, the restriction changes to three passengers under the age of 18. The restriction of only one passenger continues to age 18 for junior drivers who have crashes or violations.

Q. Does the passenger restriction apply to family members?

A. No. There is no restriction on having a brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister or adopted or foster children living in the same household as the junior driver in the vehicle with the junior license holder doing the driving. The restriction does not apply if the junior driver has a parent or legal guardian in the vehicle. In any case, you cannot have more people in the vehicle than there are seat belts.

Q. What constitutes a reportable crash?

A. A reportable crash is one in which an injury or a fatality occurs or at least one of the vehicles involved requires towing from the scene.

Q. If I received my junior driver's license before Dec. 24 when the law takes effect, how long does the restriction on carrying friends in my vehicle apply to me?

A. Act 81 says the six-month restriction on carrying more than one friend in your vehicle starts when the junior license is issued. For example, if you received your junior license Oct. 1, the restriction takes effect Dec. 24 and then continues for you until April 1, 2012 (six months from Oct. 1).

Q. What is changing regarding seat belts?

A. While young drivers and any passengers under 18 must continue to wear seat belts, failure to do so now is a primary violation, meaning a police officer can stop the vehicle and issue a citation merely for the seat belt infraction.