

Introduced by Senator Galgiani

May 27, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to driver’s licenses.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 69, as introduced, Galgiani. Driver’s licenses: instruction permits: minimum age.

This measure would request the Department of Motor Vehicles to conduct a study regarding the possible effects of reducing the minimum age for applying for an instruction permit to drive a motor vehicle from 15 years and 6 months of age to 15 years of age.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,000 teenagers every year, or eight
2 teenagers every day, lose their lives in car crashes. The main cause
3 of these car crashes is driver inexperience; and

4 WHEREAS, Teenage drivers are less able to recognize
5 hazardous situations and more likely than older drivers to
6 underestimate dangerous driving situations; and

7 WHEREAS, Driving is a complex skill, one that must be
8 practiced to be learned well. Teenagers’ lack of driving experience,
9 together with risk-taking behavior, puts them at heightened risk
10 for car crashes; and

11 WHEREAS, The need for skill-building and driving supervision
12 for new drivers is the basis for graduated driver licensing systems.
13 Graduated driver licensing puts restrictions on new drivers, and
14 these are systematically lifted as the driver gains experience; and

15 WHEREAS, Research suggests that the most comprehensive
16 graduated driver licensing programs are associated with reductions

1 of 38 percent and 40 percent in fatal and injury crashes,
2 respectively, among 16-year-old drivers; and

3 WHEREAS, In nine states, a person may be as young as 14
4 years of age in order to apply for a “learner’s permit” and begin
5 driving; and

6 WHEREAS, In this state, a person must be at least 15 years and
7 six months of age to apply for an instruction permit to drive a
8 motor vehicle; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Department of Motor Vehicles is
11 requested to conduct a study regarding the possible effects of
12 reducing the minimum age for applying for an instruction permit
13 to drive a motor vehicle from 15 years and six months of age to
14 15 years of age, and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
16 this resolution to the Director of Motor Vehicles and to the author
17 for appropriate distribution.