

Driver's Education & Training

- 1
2
3
4 Whereas, Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 20
5 years old, with two out of five deaths being the result of a motor vehicle crash,
6 according to the National Center for Health Statistics and the National Center for
7 Injury Prevention and Control; and
8
- 9 Whereas, In 2004 alone, licensed young drivers (classified as any driver under the age of
10 21) comprised 11 percent of licensed Missouri drivers, but accounted for 29% of
11 traffic crashes according to Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDot); and
12
- 13 Whereas, According to Missouri State Highway Patrol statistics from 1990-2005, 24.1% of
14 the fatality crashes involved young drivers including the deaths of a total of
15 3,677 young drivers; and
16
- 17 Whereas, There has been a decline of Driver's Education programs offered within the 524
18 Missouri public school districts during the traditional school calendar from 228
19 districts in 1990 to 49 districts in 2005 according the Department of Secondary
20 and Elementary Education (DESE); and
21
- 22 Whereas, Some of the leading causes of crashes among young drivers, according to
23 MoDot, are exceeding the speed limit or traveling too fast for road conditions,
24 inattention or distractions that take attention away from the roadway, not staying
25 on the proper side of the roadway or utilizing appropriate lanes of traffic for
26 turning, drinking and driving, and nonuse of safety belts all of which can be
27 addressed through proper Driver's Education programs; and
28
- 29 Whereas, In January 2001, Missouri changed to a Graduated Driver's License program that
30 puts more responsibility on parents for teaching and enforcing the GDL
31 restrictions with "how to" information for parents being limited according to the
32 NCIP; and
33
- 34 Whereas, During the 2006 Missouri legislative session, the number of hours of behind-the-
35 wheel driving instruction, as required by law and GDL requirements, was
36 increased from 20 hours to 40 hours including a minimum of 10 hours of
37 nighttime instruction; and
38
- 39 Whereas, The Graduated Driver's License Program has proven effective in reducing the
40 number of traffic crashes and fatalities among young drivers according to the
41 NCIP; therefore be it
42
- 43 Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, urge
44 legislators to provide a means of funding to local school districts, such as a
45 Driver's Education Fund that could be funded by increasing the fines that
46 Missouri drivers pay for moving violations, so that proper Driver's Education
47 and Training can be reinstated in all of Missouri's public school districts; and be
48 it further

49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74

- Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, encourage DESE to update Driver’s Education Program curriculum, so that the latest national standards which combine traditional, new and different forms of instruction can be offered in our public schools to help educate our young drivers in proper driving skills; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, encourage all local school districts to offer Driver’s Education instruction for elective credit, so that core driving competencies and skills can be taught to our students; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, urge the Missouri Department of Revenue to update and disseminate the publication “Safe Driving for Life: A Parent’s Guide to Teaching Your Teen to Drive” to all parents of 15-year-old students through our public high schools so that all parents have access to detailed plans they can use to reinforce safe and effective driving skills during the required practice hours of driving that parents must supervise before a teen can obtain a driver’s license; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, disseminate information, provide program ideas, and provide programs regarding teenage driving to their members in preparation for helping teens learn how to drive and understanding the importance of the parent role in the Graduated Driver’s License Program.