

STATE OF NEW YORK

5241

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2021

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish the teen driver safety commission and providing for its powers and duties; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative declaration. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares: (a) that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death
3 for teens; (b) the risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16 to
4 19 year olds than among any other age group; and (c) the presence of
5 teen passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers.
6 The legislature therefore finds and declares that a teen driver safety
7 commission shall be established pursuant to this act.

8 § 2. Teen driver safety commission. 1. The commission shall consist of
9 twelve members. Four of the members shall be appointed by the governor,
10 of which one shall be from the department of motor vehicles. Three of
11 the members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate.
12 Three of the members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly.
13 One member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate. One
14 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. All
15 appointments shall be made within thirty days of the effective date of
16 this act.

17 2. The commission shall, within twenty days following the appointment
18 of all its members, elect a chairperson from among such members.

19 3. The commission shall study, examine and review the issue of teen
20 driver safety. In conducting its study, the commission shall:

21 (a) study and evaluate the availability and effectiveness of driver
22 education and training programs in the state, as well as a selection of
23 driver education and training programs offered throughout the United
24 States;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (b) survey and assess the problems of driving under the influence of
2 drugs and alcohol and aggressive driving among teens;

3 (c) review the impact of distracting behaviors while driving, includ-
4 ing, but not limited to, the use of hands-free electronic communication
5 devices and the manual use of non-standard audio devices;

6 (d) determine the type of motor vehicle violations that are most often
7 associated with accidents involving teen drivers;

8 (e) evaluate the role and utilization of defensive driving and acci-
9 dent prevention programs;

10 (f) determine and analyze any non-standard safety devices that may be
11 available; and

12 (g) consider any other issues or matters the commission may deem
13 appropriate to fulfill the scope of its charge.

14 4. Additionally, the commission shall analyze and provide measures
15 that may mitigate the risks associated with the operation of motor vehi-
16 cles by teen drivers. Such measures shall include, but not be limited
17 to:

18 (a) requiring the parents of a teen driver to attend all court
19 proceedings and hearings associated with motor vehicle violations
20 charged to such teen driver;

21 (b) assessing fines or penalties to the parents of a teen driver when
22 they knowingly allow such driver to operate a motor vehicle in violation
23 of a class restriction; and

24 (c) prohibiting anyone, other than family members or a supervising
25 driver, from riding as a passenger in a motor vehicle operated by a teen
26 driver.

27 5. The commission shall report its findings, conclusions and recommen-
28 dations to the governor and legislature no later than one hundred eighty
29 days after the effective date of this act.

30 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect
31 until the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law,
32 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.