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S.B. 419
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

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SUMMARY

Driving age

- Lowers the age at which a juvenile may obtain a temporary instruction permit from 15½ to 15.
- Expands the time a juvenile must hold a temporary instruction permit before eligibility for a probationary license from six months to one year (thus retaining age 16 as the age of eligibility for a probationary driver's license).

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Driving age

Background

Under current law, a minor person (under 18) is eligible for a probationary driver's license (probationary license) at age 16, provided the minor meets certain conditions. A probationary license is like a regular driver's license, but the licensee is subject to special curfews (between midnight and 6 a.m.) and vehicle occupancy restrictions (may only transport one nonfamily member unless a parent, guardian, or custodian is present).[1] The conditions for obtaining a probationary license include:

[1] R.C. 4507.071. The probationary license is valid until the age of 18, at which point it automatically becomes a regular driver's license.

1. The minor must first apply for and obtain a temporary instruction permit (permit) by passing both a written test about motor vehicle laws[2] and a vision screening test;[3]
2. The minor must be at least 15½ to obtain the permit and must hold the permit for at least six months. (Thus, the earliest the minor may obtain a probationary license is age 16.)
3. The minor's application for a permit must be signed by one of the following:
   a. The minor applicant's parents;
   b. The minor applicant's guardian;
   c. Another person having custody of the minor applicant; or
   d. A responsible person who is willing to assume liability for any negligence or willful or wanton misconduct by the minor applicant while driving.[4]
4. During the term of the permit, the minor must complete an approved driver's education or training course (which must include at least 24 hours of classroom instruction and eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction), acquire at least 50 hours of driving experience (including at least ten night hours),[5] and pass a driving test (maneuverability and road skills).[6]

   A temporary instruction permit is valid for one year.[7]

Temporary instruction permit: age lowered and validity extension

The bill lowers the age at which a minor may obtain a temporary instruction permit from 15½ to 15. It also requires the minor to hold the permit for one year, instead of six months, before obtaining a probationary license. Thus, the bill retains the earliest possible age (16) at which a minor may obtain a probationary license, but also extends the time that certain curfews and occupancy restrictions apply. Additionally, the bill extends a permit's validity period from one year to one year and six months.[8]

The diagrams below illustrate this change:

[2] R.C. 4507.10(A) and 4507.11, not in the bill.

[3] Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 4501:1-1-08(A).

[4] R.C. 4507.05 and 4507.071; R.C. 4507.07(A), not in the bill.

[5] R.C. 4507.21(B) and 4508.02(C), not in the bill.

[6] R.C. 4507.10(A) and 4507.11, not in the bill; O.A.C. 4501:1-1-10.

[7] R.C. 4507.05.

[8] R.C. 4507.05(A) and (C) and 4507.071(A).

Current law



The bill



HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-09-26
Reported, S. General Government	06-10-26
Passed Senate (33-0)	06-10-26

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