

Why did Wisconsin pass a GDL law?

Wisconsin passed a Graduated Driver License (GDL) law to address the problem of teen drivers' and passengers' involvement in more than their share of crashes.

How does GDL address the problem?

GDL requires more practice time for teens before they become licensed.
 It keeps teens in lower risk driving situations when they are first licensed.
 Probationary drivers are taken off the road more quickly for multiple driving offenses.

What are some of the key provisions of GDL?

For drivers under age 18:

- 30 hours driving experience prior to issuance of a probationary license.
- Distinctive license showing driver is under age 18.

For all drivers regardless of age:

- Class D instruction permit valid for 12 months, previously valid for 6.
- Increase Class D instruction permit fee from \$20 to \$25.

Simplifies definition of who can accompany permit holders.

For drivers under age 18:

- Must hold instruction permit 6 months before getting probationary license.
- Must be 6 months violation free before getting probationary license.
- Can drive alone but passengers are limited: only 1 passenger, immediate family members and qualified instructor for first nine months.
- No driving midnight to 5 a.m. except between home, work and school for first nine months.
- Restrictions extended 6 months for driving convictions or revocation/suspension of driving privilege.

For all probationary drivers regardless of age or issuance date:

- Demerit points doubled for 2nd and subsequent driving convictions.

6-month suspension for accumulation of 12 points in 12 months.

Is GDL working?

The data below demonstrates crash reductions for 16 and 17 year olds since GDL went into effect. GDL Crash Data Comparisons: 5 year average pre-GDL vs. 9th year after GDL (9/1/09-8/31/10)

Type of Crash	Pre-GDL		8th Year After GDL	
	16	17	16	17
Driver Prop. Damage	5,139	5,327	2,966	3,365
Driver Injury	3,085	3,184	1,213	1,533
Driver Fatal	30	29	12	21

Total number of 16 & 17 year old GDL drivers in 2010 was 83,578.

Bureau of Driver Services
 (608) 266-2353
 Email: driverrecords.dmv@dot.state.wi.us

For more information contact: