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KENTUCKY'S FIRST "CLASS" OF GDL DRIVERS PREPARES TO TAKE THE WHEEL

Transportation Cabinet Offers Required Forms on New GDL Website

FRANKFORT, KY (March 30, 2007) – April 1st was much more than April Fools' Day in Kentucky this year. On April 1, 2007 the first "class" of teenage drivers in Kentucky, who were subject to the terms of the state's new Graduated Driver's License Law (GDL), entered the Intermediate License Phase.

If a teenager's driving permit was issued on or after October 1, 2006, that teen should check the date when he or she will be eligible to take the driving skills test required for an intermediate license. To check on their eligibility teen drivers must visit <https://eligibility.gdl.kytc.ky.gov>

Teen drivers must also visit the same web site in order to gain access to the *Graduated Driver's License Verification Letter*, which must be presented to the Kentucky State Police License Examiner in order to be permitted to take the skills test.

The goal of the GDL, which became effective October 1st, is to curb the number of crashes involving teen drivers, especially the high number of deadly crashes including teenagers. Kentucky has had one of the highest teen crash rates in the nation. Teenage drivers account for only 6% of the state's driving population, yet they have been involved in about 18 percent of fatal crashes in Kentucky.

"The six month intermediate period mandated by Kentucky's GDL allows more time to expose young drivers to progressively more difficult driving situations," said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. "Studies from other states have shown us that after passing a GDL those states witnessed as much as a 25% reduction in the teen crash rate. We're striving for the same kind of results here in Kentucky."

Under the provisions of the law, after a violation-free six month permit period, teens must maintain a clean driving record for another six months during the Intermediate Phase. Afterwards the teen drivers will be eligible to obtain a Full Unrestricted Driver's License.

"If a teenager obtained a permit on or after October 1, 2006, we want to make sure that young person and the parents are aware that the time has arrived to take the next big step," said Commissioner of Vehicle Regulation, Roy Mundy. "Our GDL web site not

only allows teens to check on the dates when they will be eligible to take a driving test, it provides everything they will need to prepare for that significant milestone. April 1st is a very big day for teens all across Kentucky.”

To help teens successfully navigate the entire process of acquiring their permits and licenses the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) GDL website guides young drivers every step of the way toward the goal of becoming a fully licensed driver. <http://gdl.kytc.ky.gov> includes various teaching tools, resources and related links, all designed to fully explain the provisions of Kentucky’s GDL and promote safe driving habits for teenagers.

“April 1st marks a very important milestone for highway safety in Kentucky,” concluded Secretary Nighbert.

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