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News & Information

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## **Governor Corzine Signs Kyleigh's Law**

By The Alternative Press Staff

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Governor Jon S. Corzine signed Kyleigh's Law on Wednesday, making New Jersey the first state in the nation to have a teen driver decal law.

Named in honor of 16-year old Kyleigh D'Alessio, S-2314/A-3069 requires the use of an identifier on vehicles driven by teens holding a permit or provisional license.

"Having a driver's license is an awesome responsibility for any teenager," Governor Corzine said. "The legislation I am signing today initiates several preventative measures to help avoid further teen driving tragedies like Kyleigh's, while ensuring that our young people are better prepared to safely take to the roadways."

The new law also will assist police in identifying young drivers who may be in violation of the Graduated Driver License (GDL) restrictions. "As a father I cannot even begin to imagine what the pain is like for family and friends of Kyleigh D'Alessio and the thousands of other teenagers who die in automobile accidents each year," said Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr. (R-Essex, Morris, Union). "This legislation is designed to encourage our young drivers to drive safely and to comply with the rules of the road. It will also assist law enforcement personnel in identifying new drivers that might not be complying with the rules and thus, putting themselves, passengers and other drivers at risk. Through education and action we can save lives and help avert another tragedy."

Governor Corzine also signed S-16/A-3070, revising nighttime driving and passenger restrictions on permit and provisional drivers. New Jersey's Graduated Driver License (GDL) law currently restricts teens on a provisional license from driving between midnight and 5 a.m. Although only 15 percent of miles driven by 16 and 17-year-olds are between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., more than 40 percent of their fatal crashes occur during this time period. The bill also renames the provisional license "probationary."

"We live in the most densely populated state in the nation in an era of constant distractions," said Senator Richard J. Codey (D-Essex).

"Over the last few years, we've witnessed a number of tragic accidents that could have been avoided. Hopefully these changes will make sure that inexperienced drivers have greater supervision and less distractions while they're still learning the ropes."

"Every nine minutes a teen crashes in New Jersey," Division of Highway Traffic Safety Director Pam Fischer said. "The legislation signed today by Governor Corzine will help to ensure that young drivers, who clearly face a higher risk on our roadways, remain safe during the most dangerous time of their lives. These bills will help reduce teen crashes and ultimately save young lives."

"Making sure that our teenagers understand the serious responsibility that comes along with obtaining a driver's license is important," said

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that comes along with obtaining a drivers license is imperative," said Assemblyman John F. McKeon. (D-Essex) "Distinguishing learning teen drivers from the rest of the driving community will make our roads safer for everyone." "

Kyleigh's Law was sponsored by Senators Fred H. Madden, Jr. (D-Camden, Gloucester) and Thomas H. Kean, Jr. (R-Essex, Morris, Union); Assemblymen Anthony Chiappone (D-Hudson), Peter J. Barnes, III (D-Middlesex), John F. McKeon (D-Essex), Michael J. Doherty, (R-Warren, Hunterdon) and Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini (R-Monmouth). S-16/ A-3070 was sponsored by Senators Richard J. Codey (D-Essex) and M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex, Union), Assemblywomen Pamela R. Lampitt (D-Camden) and Mary Pat Angelini (R-Monmouth) as well as Assemblymen John S. Wisniewski (D-Middlesex), Anthony Chiappone (D-Hudson) and Michael J. Doherty, (R-Warren, Hunterdon).

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info@TheAlternativePress.com

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