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**For More Information Contact:**  
Dave Druker

**Jesse White's Legislation Strengthening GDL Program Takes Effect July 1**  
*Requires people ages 18-20 who do not take driver education to complete a 6-hour training course before applying for a driver's license*

The law proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to further improve Illinois' heralded Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program takes effect July 1. The new law requires people ages 18-20 who failed to attend driver education to complete a 6-hour driver training and education course before applying for a driver's license.

"Since we implemented one of the nation's most comprehensive GDL programs in 2008, teen driving fatalities have dropped nearly 60 percent," said White. "But even the best programs can be made better, and this legislation will help strengthen our state's GDL program, and hopefully save more lives."

Prior to this law, when teens turned 18 – even without any driver education whatsoever – they were allowed to apply for and obtain a driver's license. In 2013, there were 37,543 driver's licenses issued to 18- to 20-year-olds. Of those, 18,532 did not take driver education.

The six-hour driver training course includes a variety of critical traffic safety components, including instruction on traffic laws; highway signs, signals and markings; issues commonly associated with motor vehicle accidents such as poor decision-making, risk-taking, impaired driving, distraction, speed, not wearing a safety belt, driving at night, failure to yield the right-of-way, texting while driving, using wireless communication devices; and alcohol and drug awareness.

Upon successful conclusion of the six-hour program, a Certificate of Completion will be provided to the individual. They will then be ready to visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility to take the required vision, written and road tests before receiving a driver's license.

The 6-hour training and education course will be offered by driving schools that have been certified by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office to offer this specific program. Depending on the driving school the individual selects, the six-hour program may be available through a classroom setting or an online service. For more information about the program, including a list of school providers, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

House Bill 772 was sponsored by state Rep. John D'Amico (D-Chicago) and state Sen. Ira Silverstein (D-Chicago).

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