

An Evaluation of New Jersey's Licensing System

Since the mid-1990s licensing systems in the United States have undergone a remarkable transformation. During that period, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted one or more features of graduated licensing (extended learner period, night and passenger restrictions). There is great variation in licensing systems. In particular, New Jersey differs from other states. It is the only state that licenses at 17 rather than 16; its graduated system applies to all novices rather than only those less than age 18; its graduated system is one of the nation's strongest. The results of a just-released evaluation of New Jersey's unique combination of licensing policies will be presented. Assessment will also be made of licensing systems in Australia compared with those in the United States.

Allan F. Williams

Allan F. Williams spent most of his career with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, serving as Senior Vice President for Research and Chief Scientist. He has conducted extensive research on various topics, especially alcohol-impaired driving, occupant restraints, and young drivers. His research on young driver issues, including more than 100 publications, helped to form the basis for graduated licensing systems in the United States. He has lectured widely on young driver issues and other topics throughout the world. Dr. Williams has a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Harvard University.