



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

- Joe Ferguson, President
- Jim Goodwin, President Elect
- Debra Patterson, Treasurer

OJDDA
305 NE 3rd St
Prineville, OR, 97754

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association (OJDDA) Requests the Removal of Sections 19, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 from Senate Bill 1538

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association opposes the passage of SB 1538, in its current form, relating to the ability for juveniles to lose their driving privileges if found to have violated Oregon laws related to alcohol and marijuana use or possession. Additionally, OJDDA is opposed to removing the authority of parents/guardians to cancel the driving privileges of their children and to remove the current educational requirements associated with an un-emancipated minor obtaining a driver's license.

Specifically OJDDA would request the following sections of SB 1538 be removed.

- **Section 19: Subsection (3)** of this Section removes the suspension of driving privileges sanction for youth who commit the crime of misrepresentation of age by a minor in order to purchase or consume alcoholic liquor.
- **Section 23: Subsection (2)(a)** of this Section eliminates the right of a parent or guardian to have the driving privileges of their non-emancipated minor child canceled as provided in ORS 809.320.
- **Section 24: Subsection (1)(a)** of this Section would eliminate the requirements found in ORS 807.066 that currently requires certain educational achievements and/or school enrolment/attendance before persons under 18 can be issued driving privileges.
- **Section 26: Subsection (1)** of this Section would make suspension of youth driving privileges only an option on the crimes of unlawful possession of marijuana, unlawful delivery of marijuana and unlawful manufacture of marijuana when they involved the operation of a motor vehicle. Subsection (2) of this Section would do the same for any offense involving the use or abuse of alcohol or cannabis.
- **Section 27: Subsection (1)** of this section is related to Section 19 above regarding the misrepresentation of age by a minor in order to purchase or consume alcoholic liquor.

- **Section 28: Subsection (8)** of this Section is related to Section 19 and Section 27 regarding the misrepresentation of age by a minor in order to purchase or consume alcoholic liquor.

The State of Oregon has long attempted to implement practices that make teenage driving a safer practice for young people and all Oregonians. For many years Oregon has set a standard for driving privileges among juveniles and has taken the position that using alcohol, marijuana, inhalants or controlled substances may result in the suspension of those privileges. In addition to educational efforts and monetary or other consequences, the loss of driving privileges is often the only significant consequences that can be imposed by a county juvenile department or juvenile court for juveniles.

According to a 2012 study by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network who studied over 220,000 16 and 17 year olds between 1999-2009 found that states who had Graduated Driving License Laws (GDL's) and Use-and-Lose Laws had students who were approximately half as likely as a student in a state with weak GDL and Use-and-Lose Laws to drive after drinking or ride in a car with someone who had been drinking. In other studies I reviewed 16 and 17 year old drivers have the highest accident per mile rate than any other age group, the next closest group are drivers 80 years and older.

The North American Transportation Services Association reports that teens are more likely than anyone else to be killed in an alcohol related crash. In 2015, almost 1 out of 5 teen drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking.

The ability of a parent or guardian to revoke their child's driving privileges may be a necessary and appropriate parenting option while serving the potential to keep a youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. The current education requirement to be enrolled in an education program and be working towards graduation is also an incentive for school enrollment and should be viewed as an incentive as Oregon strives for higher graduation rates.

We don't know when a youth will choose to drive a motor vehicle after they have been drinking alcohol or using marijuana but we do know that these substances obstruct judgement in a teen brain that is already underdeveloped in judgement, reasoning and decision making. Attempting to restrict the driving privileges of those youth who we know are making the decision to possess or use substances seems a reasonable attempt at lessening the number of young people, their families and the public that are impacted from motor vehicle related injuries and death.

OJDDA urges you to remove sections 19, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 from Senate Bill 1538 and preserve the use of current laws related to driving privilege sanctions. These laws serve a threefold purpose. They can be a valuable deterrent, a meaningful consequence and be part of Oregon's overall efforts to make teenage driving a safer endeavor.

For Further Information Contact:

Lara Smith at 503-804-9750

