

1 HB556
2 168126-2
3 By Representatives Holmes (M), Fincher, Mooney, Pettus, Rowe,
4 Ingram, Ball, Hanes and Wood
5 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
6 First Read: 23-APR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a driver may obtain a
9 graduated license, including a Stage I-learner's
10 permit, Stage II-regular driver's license with
11 restrictions based on age, and Stage
12 III-unrestricted driver's license. Also under
13 existing law, a violation of the restriction of a
14 Stage II licensee is a traffic violation, but no
15 points may be assessed for the violation.

16 This bill would revise the penalties for a
17 violation of the restrictions on a Stage II
18 license, including revocation of the license and
19 reversion to a Stage I license for a period of six
20 months, would require the driver to revert to a
21 Stage I license for a period of six months, would
22 require the court to assess a fine of \$250, plus
23 court costs, and would provide for the assessment
24 of two points.

25 This bill would also provide that a parent,
26 legal guardian, or other adult who knowingly allows
27 a driver with a Stage I or Stage II license to

1 drive a motor vehicle in violation of applicable
2 restrictions is subject to a fine of \$500, plus
3 court costs.

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5 A BILL
6 TO BE ENTITLED
7 AN ACT

8
9 To amend Section 32-6-7.2, Code of Alabama 1975,
10 relating to restrictions on the issuance of driver's licenses
11 to persons under 18 years of age, to revise the penalties for
12 a violation of the restrictions on a Stage II license; to
13 provide for the assessment of a fine against a parent, legal
14 guardian, or other adult who knowingly allows a driver with a
15 Stage I or Stage II license to drive a motor vehicle in
16 violation of applicable restrictions.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

18 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
19 as the Deputy Hart Act.

20 Section 2. Section 32-6-7.2, Code of Alabama 1975,
21 is amended to read as follows:

22 "§32-6-7.2.

23 "(a) A person who is under the age of 18 may not
24 apply for a Stage II restricted regular driver's license until
25 the person has held a Stage I learner's license issued
26 pursuant to Section 32-6-8 or a comparable license issued by
27 another state for at least a six-month period.

1 "(b) In addition to any other requirements of this
2 chapter, if the applicant for a driver's license is 16 years
3 of age, he or she shall submit to the Department of Public
4 Safety the following:

5 "(1) A verification form provided by the Department
6 of Public Safety signed by a parent or legal guardian
7 consenting to the licensure of the applicant.

8 "(2) A verification form provided by the Department
9 of Public Safety signed by a parent, legal guardian, or
10 licensed or certified driving instructor certifying that the
11 applicant has completed a minimum of 30 hours of
12 behind-the-wheel driving practice, or submission of a
13 certificate of completion from the State Department of
14 Education that the applicant has passed a driver's education
15 course approved by the State Department of Education.

16 "(c) A person who is issued a regular driver's
17 license who is age 17 and has been licensed for less than six
18 months or who is age 16 shall be deemed to have a Stage II
19 restricted driver's license. The person may not operate a
20 vehicle under any of the following conditions:

21 "(1) Between 12:00 o'clock midnight and 6:00 o'clock
22 a.m. unless one of the following exceptions applies:

23 "a. The licensee is accompanied by a parent or legal
24 guardian.

25 "b. The licensee is accompanied by a person who is a
26 licensed driver and is at least 21 years of age or the consent
27 of a parent or legal guardian of the driver is given.

1 "c. The licensee is driving to or from a place where
2 the licensee is employed or works.

3 "d. The licensee is driving to or from a school
4 sponsored event.

5 "e. The licensee is driving to or from an event
6 sponsored by a religious organization.

7 "f. The licensee is driving for the purpose of a
8 medical, fire, or law enforcement related emergency.

9 "g. The licensee is driving to or from a place where
10 the licensee participates in hunting or fishing activities. In
11 order for this particular exception to apply, the licensee
12 must have in his or her immediate possession a valid hunting
13 or fishing license for the activity.

14 "(2) If there is more than one passenger in the
15 vehicle not including the parents, legal guardians of the
16 licensee, accompanying family members, or a licensed driver
17 who is at least 21 years of age.

18 "(3) While operating any handheld communication
19 device that is nonessential to the functioning of the vehicle.

20 "(d) A violation of subsection (c) shall not result
21 in a suspension of the person's driver's license, but shall
22 extend the time period for six months that the person is
23 subject to the restrictions of subsection (c) before the
24 person is eligible to be designated as an unrestricted
25 driver's license holder or until age 18.

26 "(e) The driver's license of any person who is
27 driving with restricted privileges as provided in subsection

1 (c) who during such time is convicted of a second moving
2 traffic violation or is convicted of failure to give
3 information or render aid, racing, fleeing or attempting to
4 elude a law enforcement officer, reckless driving, illegal
5 passing, driving on the wrong side of the road, or any other
6 offense where four or more points are assessed and other
7 violations as designated by rules or regulations promulgated
8 pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, shall be
9 automatically suspended for 60 days unless the Alabama Rules
10 of the Road provide a more serious penalty, and the time
11 period that the licensee is subject to the restrictions of
12 subsection (c) shall be extended for six months from the date
13 the person would otherwise be eligible to be designated as an
14 unrestricted driver's license holder or until age 18.

15 "(f) The license possessed by any resident of this
16 state who is 17 years of age shall be deemed a Stage III
17 unrestricted driver's license if the license has been issued
18 for a period of six months or longer and the Department of
19 Public Safety verifies that the license holder has not been
20 convicted of a moving violation of the Alabama Rules of the
21 Road within the preceding six months.

22 "(g) This section shall not apply to the following:

23 "(1) Any resident of this state age 16 years and
24 over who is married or who is the head of a household.

25 "(2) Any resident who has otherwise been legally
26 relieved of minority.

27 "(3) Any resident who is age 18 or over.

1 "(h) (1) A person who drives a motor vehicle in
2 violation of the conditions imposed in subsection (c) shall be
3 guilty of a traffic violation, ~~but~~ and shall ~~not~~ be subject to
4 ~~any the following criminal~~ penalties or court costs. ~~No~~
5 ~~citation shall be issued for a traffic violation pursuant to~~
6 ~~this subsection unless the person is stopped by a law~~
7 ~~enforcement officer for a separate violation of law and issued~~
8 ~~a citation or warrant for the separate violation. Information~~
9 ~~concerning a violation pursuant to this subsection shall not~~
10 ~~be released to any party and shall not result in any points on~~
11 ~~a driver's license record.:~~

12 "a. The privileges of the Stage II license shall be
13 revoked and the person shall be required to revert to a Stage
14 I learner's permit for a period of six months prior to
15 eligibility to reapply for a Stage II license.

16 "b. The person shall be subject to a fine of two
17 hundred fifty dollars (\$250), plus court costs.

18 "c. A conviction under this subsection shall be
19 entered on the driving record of any individual charged under
20 this subsection as a two-point violation.

21 "(2) A parent, legal guardian, or other adult who
22 knowingly allows a driver with a Stage I or Stage II license
23 to drive a motor vehicle in violation of the applicable
24 restrictions of the license shall be subject to a fine of five
25 hundred dollars (\$500), plus court costs.

1 "(i) The Department of Public Safety may promulgate
2 reasonable rules and regulations to carry out and to aid in
3 enforcement of this section and Sections 32-6-7.3 and 32-6-8.

4 "(j) As used in this section, the following words
5 shall have the following meanings:

6 "(1) STAGE I. A learner's permit.

7 "(2) STAGE II. A regular driver's license with
8 restrictions based on age and the date of issuance.

9 "(3) STAGE III. An unrestricted driver's license."

10 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
11 first day of the third month following its passage and
12 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.