

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 247 (Delegate Fair, *et al.*)  
Environment and Transportation

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Motor Vehicles – Provisional Driver’s License Examinations – Unaccompanied  
Homeless Youths

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This bill reduces the period of time, from nine months to three months, during which unaccompanied homeless youth younger than age 19 who hold a learner’s instructional permit must wait before taking a driver skills examination or driver road examination for a provisional license.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Since it is assumed that this bill applies in a limited number of cases, Transportation Trust Fund revenues and expenditures are not materially affected. The Motor Vehicle Administration can implement any procedural changes with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary/Current Law:** The bill defines “unaccompanied homeless youth” as a child or youth who (1) is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; (2) is a homeless child or youth, as defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and (3) was determined to be a homeless child or youth by specified individuals (*e.g.*, a Maryland local school system homeless liaison).

Under current law, the holder of a learner’s instructional permit *younger than age 19* is generally prohibited from taking a driver skills or road examination for a provisional license within nine months from the date of issuance of the learner’s permit or from the

most recent date of conviction, or the granting of probation before judgment, for a moving violation. The learner's permit holder must also successfully complete an approved driver education program consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least 6 hours of highway driving instruction, as well as at least 60 hours of driving practice (including 10 hours of nighttime driving) supervised by a licensed driver who is 21 or older and has been licensed for three or more years. A learner's permit holder also has to submit a completed skills log book with the signatures of supervising drivers (and the signature of a parent, guardian, or other person, if applicable).

Also under current law, the holder of a learner's instructional permit who is *at least 18 years old and has a high school diploma* (or its equivalent), or who is *at least 19 years old but younger than 25*, is prohibited from taking a driver skills or road examination for a provisional license within three months from the date of issuance of the learner's permit or within nine months from the most recent date of conviction, or the granting of probation before judgment, for a moving violation. The learner's permit holder must also successfully complete an approved driver education program consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least 6 hours of highway driving instruction, as well as at least 60 hours of driving practice (including 10 hours of nighttime driving) supervised by a licensed driver who is 21 or older and has been licensed for three or more years. The individual must also submit a completed skills log book with the signatures of supervising drivers. The bill expands this provision to also apply to unaccompanied homeless youth who are younger than 19; as a result (and assuming all other requirements are met), the waiting period is reduced from nine to three months for these individuals.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Human Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 2025  
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