

SENATE BILL 856

R4

6lr3514
CF 6lr3517

By: Senator Sydnor

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Driver’s Licenses – Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility standards and requirements for the issuance of
4 provisional driver’s licenses and original driver’s licenses; and generally relating to
5 eligibility for driver’s licenses.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Transportation
8 Section 16–103(c), 16–105(d), and 16–111
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 16–111.1(a) and (b)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 16–103.

20 (c) The Administration may not issue:

21 (1) A learner’s instructional permit to any individual who has not reached
22 the age of 15 years, 9 months;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) A provisional license to any individual who [has]:

(I) **HAS** not reached the age of 16 years, 6 months; OR

(II) **IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER**; or

(3) A license to any individual who has not reached the age of 18 years.

5 16-105.

(d) (1) This subsection applies to an individual who:

- (i) Seeks to obtain an original driver's license under this subtitle;
- (ii) Does not qualify for a learner's instructional permit under section (e) of this section.

(2) [Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, an] AN individual under the age of [19] 18 years who holds a learner's instructional permit may not take a driver skills examination or driver road examination for a provisional license:

(i) Sooner than 9 months following the later of:

1. The date that the individual first obtains the learner's permit; or
2. The most recent date the individual was convicted of, or before judgment under § 6-220 of the Criminal Procedure Article for, a

(ii) Until after successful completion of:

1. The driver education program approved under Subtitle 5 consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least 6 hours of driving instruction; and
2. At least 60 hours, 10 hours of which must occur during the hours of driving practice supervised by an individual who:
 - A. Holds a valid driver's license;
 - B. Is at least 21 years old; and
 - C. Has been licensed to drive for at least 3 years; and

(iii) Unless the individual submits, in accordance with the Administration's regulations, a completed skills log book signed by:

13 (i) Sooner than the later of:

18 (ii) Until after successful completion of:

25 A. Holds a valid driver's license;

26 B. Is at least 21 years old; and

27 C. Has been licensed to drive for at least 3 years; and

32 (4) An individual at least 25 years old who holds a learner's instructional
33 permit and has not been convicted of, or granted probation before judgment for, a moving

1 violation may not take a driver skills examination or driver road examination for a
2 [provisional] **DRIVER'S** license:

3 (i) Sooner than 45 days following the date that the individual first
4 obtains the learner's instructional permit;

5 (ii) Until after successful completion of:

6 1. A standard driver education program approved under
7 Subtitle 5 of this title, consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least
8 6 hours of highway driving instruction; and

9 2. At least 14 hours, 3 hours of which must occur during the
10 period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise, of
11 behind-the-wheel driving practice supervised by an individual who:

12 A. Holds a valid driver's license;

13 B. Is at least 21 years old; and

14 C. Has been licensed to drive for at least 3 years; and

15 (iii) Unless the individual submits, in accordance with the
16 Administration's regulations, a completed skills log book signed by each supervising driver
17 who certifies that the individual has satisfactorily demonstrated a required skill and has
18 completed the driving practice requirements under this paragraph.

19 (5) An individual at least 25 years old who holds a learner's instructional
20 permit and has been convicted of, or granted probation before judgment for, at least one
21 moving violation may not take a driver skills examination or driver road examination for a
22 [provisional] **DRIVER'S** license:

23 (i) Sooner than 9 months following the most recent date the
24 individual was convicted of, or granted probation before judgment for, a moving violation;

25 (ii) Until after successful completion of:

26 1. A standard driver education program approved under
27 Subtitle 5 of this title, consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least
28 6 hours of highway driving instruction; and

29 2. At least 14 hours, 3 hours of which must occur during the
30 period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise, of
31 behind-the-wheel driving practice supervised by an individual who:

32 A. Holds a valid driver's license;

- B. Is at least 21 years old; and
- C. Has been licensed to drive for at least 3 years; and

(6) A learner's instructional permit issued to an individual described in paragraph (1) of this subsection expires 2 years after the date of issuance.

9 16-111.

10 (a) This section applies to an applicant who:

13 (2) Qualifies for a provisional license under subsection (e) of this section.

14 (b) An applicant is entitled to receive a provisional license if the applicant:

15 (1) Meets the [minimum age required] AGE REQUIREMENTS under §
16 16–103(c)(2) of this subtitle;

17 (2) Satisfies the learner's instructional permit requirements under [§
18 16-105(d)(2), (3), (4), or (5)] **§ 16-105(D)(2)** of this subtitle;

21 (4) Surrenders any learner's instructional permit issued to the applicant;
22 and

23 (5) Pays the fee established under this subtitle.

24 (c) A provisional license shall be clearly identifiable as a provisional license.

25 (d) (1) An individual who holds a provisional license may not receive a
26 **DRIVER'S** license [sooner than 18 months following] **BEFORE** the later of:

27 (i) The date the individual [first obtains the provisional license]
28 **TURNS 18 YEARS OF AGE:**

4 1. A [moving] violation OF **§ 21-902 OF THIS ARTICLE**; or

18 [2] If an individual has been licensed for:

19 (i) Less than 6 months, the individual shall hold the provisional
20 license for at least 18 months before being eligible for a license under § 16-111.1 of this
21 subtitle;

22 (ii) 6 months, but less than 12 months, the individual shall hold the
23 provisional license for at least 12 months before being eligible for a license under §
24 16–111.1 of this subtitle as long as the individual has not committed an offense as defined
25 in § 16–213(a) of this title during that period; or

34 (3) An individual who commits an offense as defined in § 16–213(a) of this
35 title while holding a provisional license issued under this subsection is subject to:

(i) The waiting periods under subsection (d)(1)(ii) of this section before qualifying for a license under § 16-111.1 of this subtitle; and

3 (ii) Other] sanctions applicable to a holder of a provisional license
4 under this article.

5 (4) [Notwithstanding § 16–103(c)(3) of this subtitle, the] **THE**
6 Administration may issue a license under § 16–111.1 of this subtitle without issuing a
7 learner's instructional permit or a provisional license if the individual has been licensed to
8 drive in another state or country, or by the armed forces, [for at least 18 months] **IS AT**
9 **LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE, AND OTHERWISE QUALIFIES FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE.**

10 (f) A provisional license is subject to the expiration and renewal requirements of
11 § 16–115 of this subtitle.

12 16-111.1.

13 (a) An applicant is entitled to receive the driver's license applied for if the
14 applicant:

15 (1) Passes the examination provided for in this subtitle;

16 (2) Surrenders the last learner's instructional permit issued to him, if any;
17 and

18 (3) Pays the fees provided for by this subtitle.

21 (2) An applicant is entitled to receive a license if the applicant:

22 (i) Meets the minimum age required under § 16–103(c)(3) of this
23 subtitle;

24 (ii) Satisfies the provisional license requirements under § 16–111(d)
25 or (e) of this subtitle;

26 (iii) Surrenders any provisional license issued to the applicant; and

27 (iv) Pays the fee established under this subtitle.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2026.