

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR KEVIN MEYER MAJORITY LEADER

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SB 132

"An Act relating to requirements for persons holding provisional drivers' licenses; and providing for an effective date."

SB 132 provides for a "*provisional driver's license sticker*" for those drivers between 16 and 18 years of age who are driving under the Alaska Graduated License Program. This bill will identify those young drivers who have completed their initial "*instruction permit*" and have obtained a "*provisional driver's license*". Upon obtaining their provisional license, they would obtain a sticker that shows that the vehicle is being driven by a driver with a new license.

If enacted, SB 132 would add a new subsection to AS 28.15.055 (Alaska's Provisional License Law) establishing a provisional license sticker and the responsibility of the driver to display it in the car they are operating. SB 132 would continue the responsibilities of the driver and the other responsible parties established in the 2005 Provisional Driver's License Law.

Alaska has very challenging driving conditions. This includes winter cold weather and darkness, extended daylight hours with crowded summer roads and numerous distractions in driving. Every year, teen drivers account for about 20 percent of the fatalities and major injuries that occur on Alaska's roads. Experience is important in keeping people safe on Alaska's roads year round and was a reason behind the Alaska Graduated License Program. By adding a "*provisional sticker*" to the car, other drivers can respect the level of experience the new driver has and drive appropriately.

Finally the bill provides guidance to the Department of Motor Vehicles and Department of Public Safety on issuing and enforcing the "*provisional driver's sticker*".