

CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XVIII, Number 1 - Feb. 2008

California Strategic Highway Safety Improvement Plan Driver Education Recommendations

by Jerry Gaines
CASE Governmental Relations Representative

During the past year the State of California prepared its new Strategic Highway Safety Improvement Plan. One area of the new plan focuses on teen drivers. A team of public and private stakeholders with expertise in traffic safety developed a series of recommendations addressing the need to reduce crash experience for new novice teen drivers. Team members included among different stakeholders CASE member Dr. William Cole, along with Ms. Kathy Kelly of the Department of Motor Vehicles and Ms. Cindy Cunningham of the Department of Education.



Two key recommendations were made to top state leaders. Dr. Cole described them in detail in the September 2007 CASE Newsletter. They include the following:

1. The Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Education will work together to establish a task force that is comprised of representatives from both agencies, licensed driving schools, driver education teachers (public schools), private secondary schools (classroom and internet providers), the insurance industry, and the public. The goal of the task force is to resolve issues and make recommendations related to improving driver education and training.
2. There should be a data system established by the state that addresses the need for additional information necessary to evaluate driver education (DE) and driver training (DT) courses related to type of entity conducting the training and modality of training offered. This need recognizes the fact that there are three separate entities to offer DE and DT (public secondary schools, private secondary schools, and licensed driving schools), and the requirements are significantly different for the three types. No evaluation of the work of these entities is possible since such information is not tracked. The DMV could track such work when certificates from the different entities are submitted by the new drivers for a permit.

CASE has contacted both the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Education expressing interest in working with them in addressing these two recommendations. Updates will be presented to CASE members as events unfold in the coming months. These recommendations will be discussed in the upcoming Cecil Zahn Forum conducted at the CASE Conference on April 11 and 12 at the Northwoods Resort, Big Bear Lake, California.

SB 1114 - Young Driver Education and Safety Fund

by Jerry Gaines, CASE Governmental Relations Representative

State Senator Torlakson (D-Antioch) introduced *SB 1114 - Young Driver Education and Safety Fund* on January 22, 2008 which seeks a way to re-establish classroom driver education programs in California's public schools. It is focused on addressing the issue of many schools having to drop mandatory driver education classes because of funding shortfalls.

According to the State Department of Education, 19,226 teens were enrolled in high school driver education classes in 2006-2007, down from 48,000 students in 1997. As proposed the bill would add a \$10 fee to the current \$27 license application fee for drivers under 18. The bill would raise about \$2.2 million annually. It provides for the creation of an advisory commission composed of 8 members, representing specified organizations.

In preparation for the bill moving through the legislature, Senator Torlakson is conducting a public hearing on February 19 in Sacramento to discuss the status of driver education in California. CASE president-elect Shannon Woods and Dr. Bill Cole will be representing CASE at the hearing.

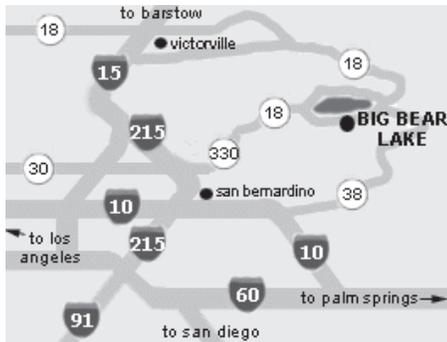
As of January 31, the bill was in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. The complete text and status of SB 1114 can be found at www.sen.ca.gov.

SB 1114 will be one of the discussion topics at the Cecil Zahn Forum on Saturday, April 12 at the CASE Conference.

2008 CASE Conference at Big Bear Lake

The 2008 CASE Conference will be held Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12 in the beautiful San Bernardino mountains at the Northwoods Resort and Conference Center, Big Bear Lake, California.

A conference registration form is included in this issue of the newsletter and also online at: www.casewebsite.org



Conference Attendees With Special Needs

If you are attending the CASE Conference in April and have special needs or considerations that need to be addressed, please e-mail Jim Lewis at: jlewis1118@aol.com

Want to Share a Room at the CASE Conference?

We are creating a room sharing list for the CASE Conference at Big Bear. If you would like to be included in the list, email Rich Mikulik at: www.casemembership@sbcglobal.net or include a note along with your registration form. We will provide the list only to those who are interested in sharing.

Teacher Preparation Courses

For information on Driver Education teacher prep courses in the Northern California and Riverside areas, contact Anna Maria Toma at UC Riverside School of Extended Education (951) 827-1661.



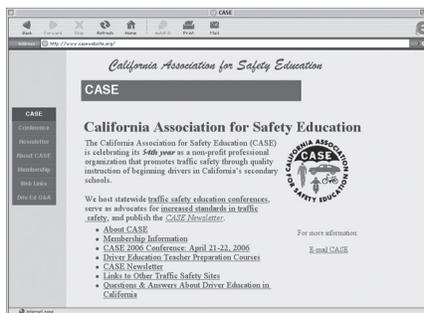
CASE Calendar

April 11-12, 2008 - 56th Annual CASE Conference, Northwoods Resort & Conference Center, Big Bear Lake, CA. See the conference registration form included in this newsletter or online at www.casewebsite.org

July 17-19, 2008 - National Student Safety Program Conference, Settle Inn, Brandon, Missouri. Contact: 1-800 896-7703

July 27-30, 2008 - 52nd ADTSEA Conference, Hilton Fort Worth, Ft. Worth, Texas. Contact: ADTSEA, 1-800 896-7703

Visit the CASE Website:
www.casewebsite.org
for updated CASE
Conference information



Alert to Retiring Teachers

If you are planning to retire this year, please let us know so we may honor you at the annual CASE conference in Sacramento. Contact Bill Lee, Retired Members Representative, at (310) 831-6471.

Bill would like to remind all retired and retiring members that they are especially invited to join our activities at the conference. There is also an opportunity for retired volunteers to help at the registration table or with many other activities.

CASE Newsletter

Published by the California Association
for Safety Education

Richard Mikulik, Editor

25 Shelbourne Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

E-mail: casemembership@sbcglobal.net

CASE Web Site:
www.casewebsite.org

CASE Officers

Barbara Shiffermiller, President

P.O. Box 3736
Riverside, CA 92519
(909) 621-6781
e-mail: barb@shiffermiller.net

John Knippel, Past President

18121 Rose Ave.
Bloomington, CA 92316
(909) 877-2484
e-mail: macbeverly@aol.com

Shannon Woods, President-Elect

309 Alameda Blvd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 375-7800
e-mail: lienchingai@hotmail.com

James Lewis, 1st Vice President

2303 Teasley St.
La Crescenta, CA 91214
(818) 957-5264
e-mail: jlewis1118@aol.com

Trina Bega, 2nd Vice President

4555 Grover Ct.
Fremont, CA 94536
(510) 742-5465
e-mail: driversedtrina@yahoo.com

Larry Terrill, North Region Rep.

P.O. Box 1184
Portola, CA 96122
(530) 832-4146
e-mail: taterrill@sbcglobal.net

Larry Woodruff, South Region Rep.

3608 York Circle
La Verne, CA 91750
(909) 593-0563
e-mail: law561@aol.com

California Association for Safety Education 56th Annual CASE Conference

Northwoods Resort, Big Bear Lake

40650 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, 2008, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Join us in beautiful Big Bear, California next spring for an outstanding traffic safety education conference! We are planning a stimulating and interesting program with presentations from top educators and experienced professionals in traffic safety education. We will have speakers from the DMV, PTA, CHP, OTS, AAA, and more.



- The Northwoods Resort room rate is \$109 plus tax, single or double occupancy. This rate includes breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Participants are responsible for their own hotel reservations. Call the Northwoods Resort for reservations Toll-Free 1-800-866-3121 and request the "California Association for Safety Education Conference Rate." Rooms must be reserved by April 1, 2008 to receive the Conference Rate, but you are urged to reserve your room early as availability is limited. The hotel is located at 40650 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake.
- Conference Registration Fee: \$145 for CASE members or \$185 for non-CASE members. The \$185 fee includes a one-year CASE membership. Make checks payable to **CASE Conference** (Registration Form below). Fee includes a continental breakfast both days and a banquet-style luncheon on Saturday. **Conference registration fee must be received by March 22, 2008 to guarantee Saturday banquet meal.** Registrations received after March 22 are \$185 (\$225 for non-members).

----- REGISTRATION FORM -----

Registration must be received no later than March 22, 2008

Mail check to: CASE Conference, 25 Shelbourne Place, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name: _____ School District/Business _____

Address: _____ Evening Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Fee Enclosed: \$ _____ (\$145 CASE members, \$185 non-members*) if received by March 22, 2008

School District Purchase Orders not accepted (if your school district is paying for registration, a district check must be sent with this registration form attached).

1 unit of state university Professional Development Credit available for a fee payable at the Conference Registration Desk

* \$185 fee includes one-year CASE membership

Program for the 56th Annual CASE Conference

Friday, April 11, 2008

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Conference Registration |
| 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. | Opening Remarks Color Guard Presentation Montclair High School JROTC |
| 9:20 a.m. - 10:10 a.m. | <i>"See It, Hear It, Do It"</i> Carol Hardin Past President, ADTSEA |
| 10:20 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. | <i>"Going Beyond the Classroom"</i> Shannon Woods CASE President-Elect |
| 11:20 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. | <i>"Teaching with PowerPoint"</i> Barbara Shiffermiller CASE President |
| 12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. | Lunch on Your Own |
| 1:15 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. | <i>"Why We Have Crashes"</i> Gary Holobeck Traffic Safety Institute Eastern Kentucky University |
| 2:15 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. | <i>"Approaches to Traffic Safety"</i> Bill Lee CASE Consultant Dr. Bill Cole CASE Representative to SHSP |
| 3:15 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. | CHP-DMV Representatives from the CHP & DMV |
| 4:15 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. | <i>"Teaching Strategies for Behind-the-Wheel Driver Education"</i> Roger Voigt President-Elect, ADTSEA |

Saturday, April 12, 2008

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Conference Registration |
| 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m. | Opening Remarks |
| 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | Cecil Zaun Forum <i>"Contemporary Issues in Traffic Safety Education"</i> Jerry Gaines, Moderator |
| 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. | <i>"New Car Technology"</i> Gary Holobeck Traffic Safety Institute Eastern Kentucky University |
| 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. | <i>"Teaching with Technology"</i> Shannon Woods CASE President-Elect |
| 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Luncheon-Awards Recognition |
| 1:45 p.m. - 2:35 p.m. | <i>"See It, Hear It, Do It" Part 2</i> Carol Hardin Past President, ADTSEA |
| 2:45 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. | <i>"What's Up with Driver Education Teacher Prep/Credentialing"</i> John Knippel CASE Past President Barbara Shiffermiller CASE President |
| 3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Closing Remarks 50-50 Drawing/Raffle Prizes |

New California Cellular Phone Laws FAQ's

Drivers 18 Years and Older

Q: When do the new cellular phone laws take effect?

A: The new laws take effect July 1, 2008.

Q: What if I need to use my phone during an emergency and I do not have a hands-free device?

A: The law allows a driver using a wireless telephone to make emergency calls, including, but not limited to, calls to a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department, or other emergency services agency.

Q: What are the fine(s) if I am convicted?

A: The base fine for a first offense is \$20, and \$50 for each subsequent conviction. The courts will impose additional administrative fees.

Q: Will I receive a point on my driving record if I am convicted for a violation of the cellular phone law?

A: No. The violation is a reportable offense; however, DMV will not assign a violation point.

Q: Will a conviction appear on my driving record?

A: Yes, but a violation point will not be added.

Q: I drive a commercial vehicle and my phone has a "push-to-talk" feature that does not require me to place the phone to my ear, will I still be required to use a hands-free device?

A: No. Only class "A" or "B" licensees operating a truck tractor as defined in Vehicle Code (VC) §655 or a motor truck as defined in VC §410 are allowed to use a "push-to-talk" feature. NOTE: This exemption does not apply to drivers of pickup trucks with commercial plates, even if the pickup truck is used for commercial purposes, for example, a contractor, landscaper, or other business.

Q: May I use a dedicated two-way radio while driving?

A: Yes. The use of dedicated two-way radios such as walkie-talkies and Citizen Band (CB) radios, which are not part of a wireless telephone, is not affected by the new law.

Q: May I use a speaker-phone feature and hold the phone in my hand, but not next to my ear?

A: No. The law requires you use a hands-free device with your phone. A "push-to-talk" feature is not allowed.

Q: My car has a built-in hands-free mobile phone feature. Is this adequate or do I have to buy additional equipment?

A: No. You do not need to purchase additional equipment. You may use your vehicle's hands-free mobile phone feature.

Q: Are passengers covered by this law?

A: No, this law applies to the persons driving a motor vehicle.

Minors (Under 18 years of age)

Q: May I use a cellular phone with a hands-free device if I am under 18?

A: No. You cannot use a wireless telephone to speak or text, even if it is equipped with a hands-free device or speaker-phone feature if you are under the age of 18. You are also prohibited from using any other type of mobile service devices, for example, specialized mobile radios, broadband personal communication devices, handheld devices or laptop computers, pagers, or two-way messaging, and texting devices. Exception: Permitted in emergency situations.

Q: If I am under 18, can a peace officer stop me if he/she suspects I am using a cellular phone or other mobile service device?

A: A law enforcement officer may pull you over if he/she observes or determines you are using a cellular phone.

Q: Why is the law stricter for provisional drivers?

A: Statistics show that teen drivers are more likely than older drivers to be involved in accidents because they lack driving experience and tend to take greater risks. Distractions, such as talking with passengers, eating or drinking, and talking on cellular phones or texting increase the chance you will be involved in a serious accident.

Q: Can my parents give me permission to allow me to use my cellular phone when driving?

A: No. The only exception is an emergency situation that requires you to call a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department or other emergency entity.

Q: If I am emancipated, does the restriction apply to me?

A: Yes, the restriction applies to all holders of an instruction permit and all licensed drivers under age 18.

Q: If I have my parent(s) or someone age 25 years or older in the car with me, may I use my cellular phone while driving?

A: No. You may only use a cellular phone or mobile service device in an emergency situation.

Q: Will the restriction appear on my provisional license?

A: No.

Q: If my car has a built-in hands-free phone feature, may I use it while driving?

A: No. The law prohibits anyone under 18 years old from using any type of wireless device while driving, except in certain emergency situations.

Teacher Tip

The Perfect Bug

adapted from *Activities that Teach* by Tom Jackson

Submitted by: Shannon Woods, River City High School, West Sacramento

This activity focuses on *communication*.

Objective: Discuss about keeping lines of communication clear.

Materials: paper, pen, pre-drawn “perfect” bug to specifications below.

Time: about 15 minutes plus discussion

Procedure:

1. Pre-draw a “perfect” bug based on the following requirements: The bug must have a body, head, eyes, legs, wings, a tail with stinger, a secondary defense method (pinchers, teeth, etc..) and decorate the body.
2. DO NOT show pre-drawn bug to students. Begin by letting students know that they may not talk during this activity. Do not answer their questions just let them know to do the best they can with the information given. Have the students draw a bug with the specifications listed above. Give simple instructions: “Draw the body of your bug.” Allow a short time like less than 1 minute to complete each step.
3. After the bug has been drawn, have the students grade their bug. Then trade a total of 3 times with other students rating the other students bugs. The last trade, everyone starts off with an “A” and now it must be graded based on your pre-drawn perfect bug. Show the picture and tell the grader that if their bug does not have the features then they need to mark the picture down one letter grade. Now return the picture to the original owner.
4. Begin by asking who drew the perfect bug. Why not? What would have made it easier for you to draw the perfect bug? How does this relate to driving? What forms of communication can we use when we drive?

Make sure you emphasize that you gave clear instructions about what you wanted. And then lead a discussion about how lines of communication are opened and how that relates to communication lines/ methods in driving.

New California Motor Vehicle Laws



These new laws became effective on January 1, 2008 (unless indicated otherwise):

Driving Under the Influence Repeated

Offense—AB 1165 (Maze)--Effective January 1, 2009. Makes it unlawful for a person who is on probation for a driving-under-the-influence offense to operate a motor vehicle at any time with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.01 percent or greater. Imposes an admin per se driver license suspension on persons found to violate this prohibition.



Required Declaration on an Original or Renewal Application for a Driver

License —AB 808 (Parra)--Requires an applicant as a condition of obtaining or renewing a driver’s license to sign a declaration acknowledging that a driver may be charged with murder if a person is killed as a result of driving under the influence.



Smoking in Vehicles With Minor Passengers—SB 7

(Oropeza)--Makes it an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for a person to smoke a pipe, cigar, or cigarette in a motor vehicle any time a minor is present in the vehicle. The law applies whether the vehicle is at rest or in motion. It is a secondary enforcement law and punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100.

Traffic Violations Adjudication—AB 645 (Feuer)

--Prohibits the courts from dismissing serious traffic violations through completion of a traffic violator school program or any other court-approved program for safe driving. Serious traffic violations are those that would result in the assessment of two negligent operator points.

Cell Phones—SB 1613 (Simitian)

--Establishes the California Wireless Telephone Act that as of July 1, 2008, prohibits drivers from operating their vehicles while using a hand-held cell phone. Hands-free devices are allowed, and there are several exemptions for emergency use. Persons who are cited will face a \$20 fine for a first offense, and a \$50 fine for each subsequent offense. Violations will appear on driving records, but no points will be issued.



Wireless Telephones and Mobile Service Devices—SB 33

(Simitian)--Effective July 1, 2008. Prohibits a person under the age of 18 from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, even if equipped with a hands-free device, or while using a mobile service device, like PDAs, laptops, and pagers. The fine is \$70 for a first offense and \$175 for subsequent offenses.

RESPONSE TO “WRONG WAY FOR TEEN DRIVERS”

By Jerry Gaines

Mike Males of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco suggests in his *Los Angeles Times* Article of January 27, 2008 “Wrong Way for Teen Drivers” the California’s Graduated Driver License (GDL) law may be at fault for increases in teens death and injury for those 18 to 20 years of age (up some 24%) even though the death and injury for teens 16 years of age has decreased since the 1998 law took effect (a decrease of some 20%).

The writer has missed some very critical historical information in making his suggestion. Classroom driver education and behind-the-wheel driver training requirements for teens applying for a GDL have drastically been compromised by some key events.

Beginning in 1990, the state stopped reimbursing school districts who offered behind-the-wheel driver training. Funds being collected from the *Driver Training Penalty Assessment Fund* (some \$40 million annually) have been diverted to other state uses. Although still being collected on moving violations annually for the stated purpose of aiding public schools for excess costs for such classes, none of these funds are available for financing public school driver instruction. Schools immediately dropped their driver training programs. Very few classes are available in the public schools today. Only those teens who can afford it can meet the behind-the-wheel driver training requirement (usually six hours of on-street training with a DMV licensed instructor).

In the ensuing years some other key changes have taken place. On-line internet driver education courses grew with no real regulation. They in effect have become “diploma mills” for teens looking for the cheap and quick way to meet the driver education requirement. These schools use the private secondary school channel to avoid any real regulation from the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Department of Education. *The Sacramento Bee* found some such schools not even making a pretense of instruction, charging as little as \$5 for the “pink slip” completion certificate. Efforts by the Department of Motor Vehicles to regulate such schools have been unsuccessful since the state’s constitution gives private secondary schools special protection from regulations for curriculum and teacher qualifications from state agencies.

Other technology changes such as cell phones and I Pods have had significant influence on teen drivers, not to say on the driving public in general. July 1, 2008 new state regulations go into effect to try to curb use of these devices while driving. However, this is a possible factor that may have some influence on the higher death and injury experience of older teen drivers.

Growing pressure on schools to stress basic academic courses over elective courses in the past decade have resulted in budget, course scheduling, and qualified driver education teacher shortages issues to surface related to public school driver education. According to the California Department of Education, only some 19,226 students were able to complete a public school driver education course in the 2006-2007 year, down from some 48,000 students completing this course in 1997. In effect, again for the most part only those students who can afford it pay for and complete classroom driver education. The costs alone direct many students to seek the quick internet diploma mill option.

So for the writer to say the new GDL law may be the cause for a spike in older teens crashes, does not recognize the changes in the teens opportunities to receive driver education and driver training instruction from quality programs with a comprehensive curriculum being taught by qualified instructors. Many do wait until they’re 18 so they in effect have no formal instruction. Many also drive illegally before they reach 18, again with no formal instruction. And certainly some teens who were licensed under the new GDL law in effect took the diploma mill internet option to avoid the more expensive commercial school choice, since there was little opportunity to take such a class while they were attending a public high school.

We need to keep in mind that the GDL law has been in effect for ten years. It has been revised recently to extend passenger restrictions to a full year. Also, teens will no longer be allowed to use any electronic device while driving. The parent practice portion providing 50 hours of behind-the-wheel experience needs further attention as noted in the state’s recent *Strategic Highway Safety Improvement Plan* now being adopted. The reduced death and injury results for new novice drivers at aged 16 are positive. To discontinue the requirements of gradually having new novice teen drivers enter the transportation system makes no sense. Perhaps more attention to the other possible causes noted above should be given to address the older teen increased crash issue.

Jerry Gaines is a Past President of the California Association for Safety Education

Please help us increase our membership!

Our Membership Committee is requesting that each member do his/her part to bring in new members. Please check with the driver education professionals at your school or district to see if they are members of CASE. If not, provide them with the membership application below and discuss the importance of belonging to their professional association.



Make check payable to:
CASE
25 Shelbourne Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

Membership Application (please type or print)

Professional Memberships are **\$40.00**. New memberships are valid for one year from date of receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School: _____ District _____

County: _____

Phone: School or office () _____ - _____ Evenings: () _____ - _____

Referred by (optional): _____