



THE FLORIDA PROVIDERS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY, INC.

A coalition of non-profit and for-profit safety organizations working to promote traffic safety, ethics, & integrity in the Florida Driver Improvement industry.

www.fpts.us

Legislative Positions for 2014

The Florida Providers for Traffic Safety (TFPTS) is a not-for-profit safety association representing numerous traffic schools throughout Florida. Each year TFPTS members create thousands of jobs for dedicated voting constituents throughout the state. Our members are proud of their commitment to safety and the responsibility that they have in providing effective training to the many communities that they serve. As a result of our association's constant vigilance of traffic safety and industry issues, we are submitting the following 2014 Florida Legislative recommendations for your consideration.

Aggressive Drivers:

TFPTS supports legislation aimed at educating aggressive drivers. A state approved Aggressive Driver course for convicted drivers involved with incidents of aggressive driving and road rage would be beneficial in curbing these deadly activities.

Insurance Discount:

Currently Florida statute 627.0652 provides for an insurance discount to those operators over the age of 55 who pass an approved DHSMV driver safety course. Due to the ever changing traffic laws and vehicle technology TFPTS strongly recommends that this law be amended to include all Florida drivers who attend a DHSMV approved traffic course. This educational insurance discount incentive would encourage many to attend classes that would update their knowledge and driving skills, thus reducing traffic crashes and the subsequent injuries, deaths and damages caused.

Motorcycle Helmets:

TFPTS supports the reinstatement of mandatory helmet use for all motorcycle operators and passengers. In 2000 Florida became one of five states to repeal or amend motorcycle helmet use laws. Fatal motorcycle crashes increased by 43.8% in the 18 months following the helmet repeal. According to the *Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)*, after accounting for the increasing number of motorcycle registrations and vehicle miles traveled over the study period, the number of fatal crashes per 10,000 registered motorcycles increased by 20.8%. The CUTR Helmet Use Observation Study suggests motorcyclists without helmets are more likely to suffer serious and fatal injuries.

Graduated Drivers License:

It is a known fact that there is a developmental learning curve for all first time drivers until they gain experience; to counteract that groups driving deficiency many states have gone to a graduated driver's license (GDL) system. Florida established their own GDL program in 1996 and although TFPTS applaud that initiative, we believe that it is time to expand the program to include prohibiting the use of cell phones when operating a motor vehicle (except in emergency situations) until the age of 18, and restricting the number of passengers under the age of 18 that a new driver can transport to one person for the first six months of operation. Additionally, all occupants (regardless of age) in a vehicle driven by a driver under the age of 18 must wear safety belts.