

TITLE: Driver License and Driver Improvement Program

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AUTHOR(S): Ronald S. Coppin

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PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

The report attempts to conceptualize driver licensing programs into a series of administrative techniques which, if applied in a systematic fashion, should enhance road safety. The basic concept of the report is a recommended shift from a system of selection/ enforcement to a system which is more diagnostic and/or educational in nature. This means a shift from doing things to drivers to a program which operates constructively **for** drivers.

SUMMARY:

The report points out the limitations of the driver license selection process as it is presently operated. The present process attempts to keep poor drivers off the road by denial of license. The present process also operates a points demerit system which, in most instances, automatically suspends or cancels licenses. The report suggests that this approach to driver license administration is no longer feasible in recognition of the fact that licensing is part of the larger social/legal/ political system.

A model system is proposed which allows entry into the initial license process at an early age, then determines increasing proficiency in the early months of driving. This process would employ a classification system to establish sub-groups of drivers in need of further education and training. A series of driver improvement techniques for use with poor drivers is recommended. The implementation of these programs would, however, be dependent upon demonstrated effectiveness. Points demerits schemes would form the basis of identification of target populations replacing their present use of automatic sanctioning devices.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Unknown.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This report was prepared for the Australian Department of Transportation by Mr. Coppin under a leave of absence arrangement from his position with the California Department of Motor Vehicles.