



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6619

LCO No. 4222

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Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT EXEMPTING DRIVERS IN A "SAFE RIDE" PROGRAM FROM THE PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD DRIVERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-36g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Each person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license issued
4 on and after August 1, 2008, and who is sixteen or seventeen years of
5 age shall comply with the following requirements:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the
7 period of six months after the date of issuance of such license, such
8 person shall not transport more than (A) such person's parents or legal
9 guardian, at least one of whom holds a motor vehicle operator's
10 license, or (B) one passenger who is a driving instructor licensed by the
11 Department of Motor Vehicles, or a person twenty years of age or
12 older who has been licensed to operate, for at least four years
13 preceding the time of being transported, a motor vehicle of the same
14 class as the motor vehicle being operated and who has not had his or

15 her motor vehicle operator's license suspended by the commissioner
16 during such four-year period;

17 (2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the
18 period beginning six months after the date of issuance of such license
19 and ending one year after the date of issuance of such license, such
20 person shall not transport any passenger other than as permitted
21 under subdivision (1) of this subsection and any additional member or
22 members of such person's immediate family;

23 (3) No such person shall operate any motor vehicle for which a
24 public passenger transportation permit is required in accordance with
25 the provisions of section 14-44 or a vanpool vehicle, as defined in
26 section 14-1;

27 (4) No such person shall transport more passengers in a motor
28 vehicle than the number of seat safety belts permanently installed in
29 such motor vehicle;

30 (5) No such person issued a motorcycle endorsement shall transport
31 any passenger on a motorcycle for a period of six months after the date
32 of issuance; and

33 (6) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no such
34 person shall operate a motor vehicle on any highway, as defined in
35 section 14-1, at or after 11:00 p.m. until and including 5:00 a.m. of the
36 following day unless (A) such person is traveling for his or her
37 employment or school or religious activities, or (B) there is a medical
38 necessity for such travel. [, or (C) such person is an assigned driver in a
39 Safe Ride program sponsored by the American Red Cross, the Boy
40 Scouts of America or other national public service organization.]

41 (b) A person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license and who
42 is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall not be subject to the
43 restrictions on the number or type of passengers specified in
44 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, or to the

45 restrictions specified in subdivision (6) of said subsection (a), if such
46 person is: [an] An active member of a volunteer fire company or
47 department, a volunteer ambulance service or company or an
48 emergency medical service organization and [if] such person is
49 responding to an emergency or is carrying out [his or her] such
50 person's duties as such active member; or an assigned driver in a Safe
51 Ride program sponsored by the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of
52 America or other national public service organization.

53 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
54 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection
55 (a) of this section. Such regulations may provide exceptions to the
56 provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for a
57 single parent under the age of eighteen for the purposes of
58 transporting the child of such parent to day care, child care and
59 education facilities, medical appointments, and for such other
60 purposes as may be determined by the commissioner.

61 (d) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this
62 section shall be deemed to have committed an infraction. The
63 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the motor vehicle
64 operator's license of any person who violates the provisions of
65 subsection (a) of this section for a period of thirty days for a first
66 violation, and for a period of six months or until such person attains
67 the age of eighteen years, whichever is longer, for a second violation.

68 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the provisions of
69 this section in effect July 31, 2008, shall be applicable to any person
70 who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and who has been issued a
71 motor vehicle operator's license prior to August 1, 2008.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	14-36g

Statement of Purpose:

To exempt drivers in a Safe Ride program from the passenger restrictions applicable to sixteen and seventeen-year-old drivers. Drivers in such Safe Ride program are currently exempt from the curfew restrictions, but the successful operation of such program requires that such drivers be exempted from both curfew and passenger restrictions.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]