

March 11-Transportation Hearing -----Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to ask for your support for **bill 5648** which will restore the written license test. It is in the best interest of public safety that this bill be passed.

Please remember when you consider this bill, this is not a NEW idea, nor is it an OLD BILL that gets recycled each year.

This is a Bill to correct the mistake made last year by the DMV. The Commissioner came before you and stated they needed your help to make the license process more comprehensive. Most members of the Gov. Task Force were unaware of the move to eliminate the written license test. Most members of this legislative body did not know they were voting to have the license test removed.

This legislative body moved to make the testing more comprehensive because of the horrendous lost of teens in car crashes. The DMV moved to streamline the license process to make it easy for the DMV. The DMV's elimination of the License test was inexcusable.

Would any of you send your teen or grandkids to a public school that tests the students after reading the first chapter of a book that's required reading. The student is then instructed to read the rest of the book, but told up front there will be no required test at the end, leaving the instructor no way to verify they read the rest of the book.

Commissioner Ward eliminated the last opportunity for a knowledge evaluation before we allow new drivers to go out in traffic. A knowledge and behind-the-wheel test goes hand in hand. If you believe a short 15 minute (maximum) road test conducted by in many cases, under trained inspectors is all that's needed to evaluate a new driver, you're only fooling yourselves and putting the new driver at risk along with the general public. We need more comprehensive testing not less.

This **bill 5648** will correct that problem and your full support is required.

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Picture this--- Headline Seymour CT.

Sixteen year old driver with three other teens in the car crashes into a mini bus containing eight pre-school children.

Death toll- 3 dead, 5 children with severe injuries.

Think of the horror.

If this in fact did happen this bill would pass with little debate and the public would be demanding you do more for public safety.

The story is true except for the death and injury toll. A guardian angel was riding on that mini-bus, the children, ages one through four were not injured.

The next time we might not be as lucky. We need a more comprehensive license test not less. We need a minimum standard road test based on a real skills evaluation not based on how many tests can be completed in an hour.

We need a comprehensive written license test, let's get at lease that accomplished before we put more under trained teens on our roads.

Teenager to blame for school bus accident

SEYMOUR — A 16-year-old female Seymour High School student was found to be a fault for a March 4 accident involving the car she was driving and a mini-school bus carrying pre-school age children.

The teenager was driving north on Botsford Road at about 9 a.m. when she failed to negotiate a slight curve in the roadway and crossed over the center yellow line, according to a police investigation. She struck the mini-school bus, which was traveling south, nearly head-on, police said. Both vehicles sustained moderate to heavy front end damage.

The bus was transporting eight pre-school children ranging in age from one- to four-years-old and an adult monitor. No passengers on the bus were injured, police said. The school bus driver was 45-year-old David Beardsley, and the bus is owned by the Winkle Bus Company of West Haven.