

Testimony for Transportation Committee
Submitted by James MacPherson for CDSP
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Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Sen. Boucher, Rep. Scribner and members of the Transportation Committee.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Connecticut Driving School Professionals in favor of Raised Bill No. 5169. Specifically, the CDSP, which is composed of the driving schools that now train the majority of newly licensed drivers in the state, strongly supports the requirement that residents being trained to drive who are over the age of 18 obtain a learner's permit.

Without this requirement, there is no guarantee that the adults undertaking driver's education have the necessary visual acuity to drive, nor is there any mechanism in place to confirm that they have a rudimentary knowledge of the state's laws and regulations governing driving. Finally, there is no confirmation of their identity, an issue that in this day and age has taken on increased importance.

Implementing such a law should not create an unmanageable workload for the Department of Motor Vehicles. All adult license applicants must, before a license is granted, provide proof of their identity and residency. In addition, they must pass vision, knowledge and road tests. This implementation of this learner's permit requirement would simply move the identity and residency verification process, as well as the vision and knowledge tests, up in time, before the person in need of training actually gets behind the wheel of a car and drives on public roads.

Everyone interested in safety, should welcome this change.