



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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February 9, 2015

Good morning, Chairmen Guerrero and Maynard, and Ranking Members Boucher and O'Dea. Thank you for proposing bill no. 6332, An Act Concerning Young Drivers.

This bill involves a very narrow and specific issue - that of allowing persons who are sixteen or seventeen and who hold a valid motor vehicle operator's license and who are members of a fire department, an ambulance service or an emergency medical service organization to take part in emergency events by driving to these events themselves, taking passengers with them who are also involved in the emergency event and, specifically, bringing those passengers back to wherever they were picked up initially.

I've had members of emergency services in my district complain to me that fire cadets who respond to an emergency event and leave school to assist the event with other cadets in the car with them are not allowed to bring those passenger cadets back to school when the emergency event is over.

Connecticut General Statutes section 14-36g describes the legal parameters involving those drivers who are sixteen or seventeen and who belong to an emergency service organization and their driving to emergency events. In subsection (b) of 14-36g, an exemption is set out for these young drivers to be allowed to drive to these emergency events and to take passengers, probably also members of an emergency service organization, to the emergency event. Subsection (b) is, however, silent about whether those same drivers can then transport their passengers back to their origination point after the emergency event is over.

This bill asks that the statutes be amended to specifically allow, under the subsection (b), that those drivers can transport their passengers back to the origination point after the emergency event is over.

A suggested remedy would be to add to the existing subsection (b) the words "or returning therefrom" such that the subsection would read "A person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license and who is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall not be subject to the restrictions...if such person is...responding to an emergency **or returning therefrom...**

Thank you and the Committee for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Timothy B. LeGeyt
State Representative, 17th District