



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE LAURA DEVLIN**  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**MEMBER**  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### TESTIMONY

In support of:

#### **H.B. 5392, AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING BY THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSES**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 29, 2016

Dear Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan,  
Representative Smith and distinguished members of the GAE Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer my testimony in support of HB 5392, and to encourage the committee to consider broadening the language.

The current proposed bill specifies that the Secretary of the State provide training specifically about the differences between the motor vehicle operators' license and those offered as "drive only" licenses. I would like to propose that the committee broaden the requirement of the Secretary of the State to consider any legislative changes that impact voting.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, legislation was passed to allow "drivers' only" licenses, that appear remarkably similar to those licenses that serve as identification for voting purposes, with verbiage on the back stating "not for voting purposes."

Last fall I had the distinct honor of serving as Head Moderator for my local community's municipal elections. Leading up to local training of election officials, the Secretary of the State had not issued any information to educate registrars or

Town Clerks about this important change. In fact, as I explained this change during training sessions with moderators and poll workers, my comments were disputed by one of our Registrars and his selected Deputy Moderator. In reaching out to the Secretary of the State's office to request that information be shared to inform local election officials, I was repeatedly told that the Secretary of the State "does not opine on issues outside of Title 9." After my persistence and just days before Election Day, the Secretary of the State did provide information to Registrars. Unfortunately, the information arrived too late to be effective because all the local training was complete.

While today, the legislative impact outside of Title 9 involves driver's only licenses; in the future it could very well be other issues that would impact election processes throughout our state.

In order to ensure an accurate election process - one that provides a smooth procedure for those eligible to vote, I respectfully ask the Committee to please consider my request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Devlin".

Laura Devlin  
State Representative