

Testimony for bill 5055

Testimony for The Transportation Committee

Submitted by Cici Petri, owner and operator of CC Driver Education and treasurer of the Non profit Association CDSP, Connecticut Driving School Professionals.

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Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard and members of the Transportation Committee. I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Connecticut Driving School Professionals in support of Bill 5055 and to offer some suggestions to improve it: Decreasing wait times at the Department of Motor Vehicles. My name is Cici Petri, I own and operate CC Driver Education in Tolland and I am a member of Connecticut Driving School Professionals. This association is made up of driving schools pursuing improved safety through better training of teen and adult drivers.

As you know it has been a challenging few years for the Department of Motor Vehicles. The addition of the Drive Only Program and the new computer system has brought the need for this bill. We as an Association with driving schools across Connecticut would like to offer our help in a few areas that we think would assist in "decreasing the wait times at the Department of Motor Vehicles".

One area we thought would help is to let Driving Schools administer the learner's permit test, as was done before August 2008. As we understand it in statute 14-36 (sub section d sub division 2 sub paragraph C), we still have the possibility to do so. It states the Commissioner may authorize driving schools to administer the comprehensive test which is now the learner's permit test. In the past, when driving schools did the test, they would bring copies of documentation and proof of passing the test to the DMV, who would then send a paper permit (no picture) in the mail. Now the learner's permit is like a license (a hard card) with a picture on it. The Permittee will still have to go to the DMV to show documentation, proof of passing and have their picture taken. Even with this, it will shorten the time the permittee is at the DMV.

A second area, is offsite testing, which is already in place for students who are 16-19. They are allowed to take the road test at driving schools. If we opened testing back up to let any age test at a driving school, there would be less people going to the DMV. Also, the offsite inspectors and agents now have computers for the road tests and send the results to the DMV, via the Internet. It would seem that the licensee would be able to be pay online and have their license sent to them in the mail since the DMV uses the same picture from the permit to put on the new license. This would stop the practice of going back to the DMV just to pick up the license. Less people at the DMV.

Lastly, This bill suggests it would like to open up to businesses the opportunity to issue duplicate identity and license cards and the renewal of such to help in decreasing the wait times at the DMV, but stipulates that you have to have a license in accordance with the provisions of section 14-67 on or before July 1, 2007. This seems to undermine what the bill is trying to achieve. If there are businesses that meet all the other criteria that is necessary they should also be allowed to offer this service.

I thank you for your time. I welcome any questions.