

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-471

AN ACT CONCERNING A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT FOR AN

**Title:** ACCIDENT IN WHICH A PERSON WAS KILLED.

**Vote Date:** 3/28/2018

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/14/2018

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Terry Gerratana  
Representative Joe Aresimowicz

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Joseph DeGrandi, a constituent of Senator Gerratana and Representative Aresimowicz, lost his daughter, Tina DeGrandi, in a tragic auto accident on Route 9. Ms. DeGrandi was traveling northbound on Route 9 when another driver who was traveling southbound hit a guardrail and was launched into the northbound lane, striking Ms. DeGrandi's vehicle, ripping off the roof of the car and killing her. Following the collision, the police report was inconclusive and the driver of the car that struck Ms. DeGrandi was never penalized.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Division of Criminal Justice** supports the bill, however they suggest that the word "accident" in the bill be changed to "crash" or "collision" or some other less conclusive word or words. The use of the word "accident" was a concern raised by traffic safety investigators.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Joseph DeGrandi** testified that he lost his daughter to an auto accident that was no fault of her own. Despite indications that the driver that hit his daughter was speeding, the police report was inconclusive, therefore no charges were ever filed and the case was unable to be reopened. He requested the bill so that no family should have to endure what he has.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Insurance Association of Connecticut Eric George, President** opposes the bill because it may have the unfortunate effect of having the state's attorney determine liability. He says this is not their purview nor are they capable of making such a determination. If the bill moves forward he recommends a language change stating that "nothing herein shall be deemed or construed to be evidence of fault or liability on the part of any party."

**Reported by: Adam Skowera**

**Date: April 12, 2018**