

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-763

AN ACT REQUIRING DRIVERS OF PARATRANSIT VEHICLES TO REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE, NEGLIGENCE, EXPLOITATION OR ABANDONMENT OF

Title: ELDERLY PERSONS.

Vote Date: 2/23/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/16/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill adds drivers of paratransit vehicles to the list of mandatory reporters. This amendment would require drivers of paratransit vehicles to report any case where they suspect abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of elderly persons. This bill was created to close a gap that exists within Connecticut's mandatory reporting measures to protect the elderly population. Extending the mandatory reporter definition to include ADA Paratransit Bus Drivers ensures an extra layer of protection for this vulnerable group.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

No testimony was submitted.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Anna Doroghazi, AARP Connecticut, supports this bill because paratransit workers can be a primary point of contact when elderly individuals experience dangerous situations. Ms. Doroghazi explained that drivers of paratransit vehicles are one of the only professions in frequent contact with the elderly population who are not mandatory reporters. Rectifying this inconsistency will promote the safety and wellbeing of this population.

Alma Hernandez is in support of this bill due to personal experiences. Ms. Hernandez explains that her father had been left unsupervised multiple times by different aides. If ADA

drivers were obligated to report these situations, a higher number of cases would be detected and dealt with properly. This bill decreases the chances of elderly individuals ending up or remaining in dangerous situations, like those her father experienced. Ms. Hernandez believes that passing this bill has the potential to save lives by ensuring increased protections to reduce harm inflicted on elderly people.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There are no sources of opposition for this bill.

Reported by: Gianna Vollano

Date: March 8, 2021