

# Transportation Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7160

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE AND VESSEL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR OR ANY DRUG, NOTICE OF CASUAL CAR SALES, REGISTRATION FEES FOR PONTOON BOATS AND TECHNICAL

**Title:** CORRECTIONS TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/10/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Transportation Committee

### CO-SPONSORS:

Rep. Devin Carney  
Rep. Chris Aniskovich  
Rep. Hector Arzeno  
Rep. Kenneth Gucker  
Rep. Mary Mushinsky

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill implements the recommendations of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles and aims to provide clarity on a variety of statutes, including (1) background checks for business licensees, (2) requirements for the eight-hour safe driving course, (3) requirements for expanding locations on adjacent property, (4) record retention timeframes, (5) low-speed vehicle dealers, (6) titling older vehicles, (7), reciprocal penalties for impaired driving and impaired boating, (8) pontoon registration fees, (9) the creation of a video on traffic safety laws at license renewal, and (10) minor technical changes aimed at conforming to federal regulations. The bill aims to address several considerations and proposal brought forth to the DMV in an effort to ensure safety on all modes of transportation and ensure that processes and enforcement mechanisms are in place for riders and dealers. It also ensures processes are in place to ensure driving students are learning the material necessary to prepare them to

be successful drivers on the road. This bill aims to promote road safety throughout the state and make technical changes to DMV proceedings. Sections 1, 2, and 10 are based on suggestions from state law enforcement as well as federal partners. Section 3 is for the purpose of consistency and ID security, while section 4 aims to better educate new drivers. Section 7 aims for parity in the licensing of a vehicle. Sections 8 and 9 are more technical revisions to align with the DMV's retention schedule.

### **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

The substitute language adds provision related to the eight-hour course fees and the traffic safety video, eliminates provision increase wrecker record retention and requiring the eight-hour course to be take in person, and modifies the provision on titling older vehicles. The eight-hour course substitute language was changed after a compromise was reached to allow potential new drivers to take new driving courses virtually, but they must keep their cameras on and interact within the course.

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

#### **Tony Guerrero, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles**

Commissioner Guerrero provided multiple comments on the bill. Specifically, he feels provisions of sections 1, 2 and 10 will help align the state with federal regulations regarding national background checks for business license applications. He approves of section 3 which would require, at minimum, a person re-take their picture for their license every 16 years. He approves of section four, which restores the in-person requirement for driver's license applicants who then must take an 8-hour safe driving practices course, because they believe as a matter of driver safety, this component of initial driver training should be delivered in person. He approves of sections 8 and 9 which would increase the amount of time DMV-regulated businesses are required to maintain customer transaction documents, from two to three years, which aligns with the DMV's retention schedule. Regarding sections 13 thru 18, involving establishing a link between motor vehicle and boating licenses when DUI or BUI infractions occur, the agency understands the rationale and welcomes further discussion in regard to the collaboration required to make this possible. Lastly, regarding the concept of requiring a casual vehicle sales notification to the DMV, the agency is concerned about enforcement with such transactions between private parties, as well as resources that would be required to implement the proposal.

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

#### **Michele Allen**

Ms. Allen supports the proposal, stating any motor vehicle DUI should affect the driver's ability to access multiple motor vehicles and aquatic vessels.

#### **Heather Andrade**

Ms. Andrade supports the bill because she feels existing laws do not adequately prevent DUI convicted individuals from operating boats. She feels the bill will make road and waterways safer and encourage more responsible boating.

**Mary Baldwin**

Ms. Baldwin supports the bill, because her granddaughter's partner lost their partner in a DUI related accident in 2024 and feels the bill will help prevent similar losses.

**Stephen Baldyga**

Mr. Baldyga supports the bill.

**Tina Bennett**

Ms. Bennett supports the bill, stating that if a driver's license is suspended, the persons boating license should be suspended, and vice versa.

**Mikaela Bourgoin**

Ms. Bourgoin supports the bill, because her friend passed away in a DUI involved boating accident in 2024 and feels the bill will help prevent future tragedies.

**Jessica Britagna**

Jessica Britagna, the mother of Ryan Britagna, supports the bill because her son and two of his friends, lost their lives in a preventable boating accident, because the person operating the watercraft had a pending motor vehicle DUI case. If this legislation were in effect at the time, that person's watercraft license would have been suspended when their motor vehicle license was suspended. She feels a person convicted of a DUI on the road, should not be allowed to operate a watercraft.

**Gary Britagna**

Gary Britagna, the father of Ryan Britagna, supports the bill, because he feels it would help prevent future boating accidents, after three lives of persons close to him were lost in a boating accident, because the owner of a boat and the boat captain had a pending DUI case for a motor vehicle infraction, but current state laws did not prevent them from operating a watercraft. This bill would suspend watercraft licenses if a motor vehicle license were suspended on DUI grounds.

**Lee Anne Brophy**

Ms. Brophy supports the bill because she feels DUI are very serious on road and waterways and feel this should already be a law.

**Patricia Cade**

Ms. Cade supports the bill because she feels many boaters on the CT shoreline are out of control, being in mind the recent 2024 boating accident that resulted in the loss of three lives.

**Deb Cascio**

Mr. Cascio supports the bill because he had loved ones pass away in the 2024 boating accident and agrees that anyone who receives a license suspension DUI in any one vehicle, should be barred from operating any other class of vehicle as well.

**Emily Champney**

Ms. Champney supports the bill, because she has had friends and family involved in BUI boating accidents and feels this law will do more to prevent future boating accidents.

**Samantha Chapps**

Ms. Chapps supports the bill because she says any person who is a danger in a motor vehicle is a danger on the water.

**Stephanie Chaves**

Ms. Chaves supports the bill because she personally knew someone affected by a tragic boating accident last summer and says BUI should be taken just as serious as DUI.

**Greg Cichowski**

Mr. Cichowski supports the bill because he says a violation penalty for a DUI infraction should carry over to all state licenses, including boaters license.

**Terrianne Clark**

Ms. Clark supports the bill because she says if there were more penalties in place for BUI, there would be lower instances of accidents and injuries from boats.

**Cheryl Calkins**

Ms. Calkins supports the bill because her son was one of the people who lost their life in the 2024 Old Saybrook Labor Day boating incident, due to the actions of an impaired boater. She says current laws fail to properly prevent individuals with DUI convictions from operating watercraft, putting lives at risk. She says by connecting motor vehicle DUI penalties with watercraft BUI penalties, the legislation closes a public safety loophole, will make our roadways and waterways safer, and help prevent avoidable tragedies and promote responsible boating.

**Christine Calkins**

Ms. Calkins supports the bill because her nephew was one of the people who lost their life in the 2024 Old Saybrook Labor Day boating incident. She states if laws had been in place preventing a persons convicted of a motor vehicle DUI from operating all vehicles as well, including watercraft, her nephew and his friends who also lost their lives, would still be alive today.

**Constance Corbett**

Ms. Corbett supports the bill because, as a member of the boating community, she does not see a downside to combining penalties for DUI and BUI offenses.

**Kaylin Courtois**

Ms. Courtois supports the bill because she feels the proposed changes should have already been codified into law previously.

**Jarry David**

Mr. David supports the bill because, his daughter was involved in the 2024 Labor Day boating accident in Old Saybrook, and he says because the operator of that boat had a motor vehicle DUI, had this law been in effect and his boating license was revoked at the same time his motor vehicle license was, three lives may have been saved. He believes the bill will prioritize safety for all in Connecticut who use our waterways.

**Tracy DeLaura**

Ms. DeLaura supports the bill because she says DUI needs to be taken more seriously, and she feels stricter laws and accountability will deter more people from DUI. She also feels anyone who loses their license privileges due to a motor vehicle DUI, should also lose their boating license and vice versa.

**Jay Dempsey**

Mr. Dempsey supports the bill because he feels it will prevent serious accidents and fatalities along the states' waterways and highways.

**Austin DiPietro**

Mr. DiPietro supports the bill because he is a friend of a family that endured a tragic loss in a BUI accident and feel this bill will help prevent future tragedies.

**Madison Flaxington**

Ms. Flaxington supports the bill because she feels it will help ensure boaters and motorist in the state are safe from anyone driving under the influence and agrees that if a person has a license suspended for a DUI infraction as a motorist, they should have their boating license suspended as well, and vice versa. She feels it will help prevent more DUI involved accidents.

**Angela Forshaw**

Ms. Forshaw supports the bill because, her best friends' son was one of the three victims of the 2024 Old Saybrook Labor Day boating accident, and feels this bill will help prevent future accidents, because in that tragedy, the boat operator had a pending motor vehicle DUI infraction and should not have been operating the boat.

### **James Forte**

Mr. Forte supports section 19 of the bill because it addresses a loophole in CT DMV procedures. They sold a vehicle of theirs in 2020 to a couple who never registered it, so the vehicle title is still in their name, which means if someone commits a crime in that vehicle, it is still linked to them despite selling it. He feels the CT DMV should have a "Notice of Transfer" requirement for the sale of motor vehicles, limiting the liability of the seller.

### **Carla Foster**

Ms. Foster supports the bill.

### **Madison Foster**

Ms. Foster supports the bill because she had a family member and knew about eight other persons either injured or killed, in a boating accident in 2024, and she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) the bill will close a loophole and help prevent future avoidable tragedies and encourage responsible boating.

### **Marcus G.**

Mr. G. supports the bill because, he feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) should already be codified in state law.

### **Miranda Gardner**

Ms. Gardner supports the bill because, she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer.

### **William Gilnack**

Mr. Gilnack supports the bill because he lost his friend in a boating accident last summer, and he feels the bill will make the state's waterways safer and help prevent future accidents.

### **Jennifer Hagelston**

Ms. Hagelston supports the bill because she feels it will prioritize the safety of our waterways, on par with our roadways.

### **Cydney Hallahan**

Ms. Hallahan supports the bill because, her brother and two other young men, were killed in a BUI accident in Old Saybrook in 2024. As the boat operator had a pending motor vehicle DUI case, she feels had the operators motor vehicle license and boating license been suspended at the time, the accident may never have occurred. She is also a career firefighter, EMT and

Rescue swimmer, and strongly feels for all the above reasons, the bill will help prevent future tragedies and make our communities safer.

**Quinn Hallahan**

Mr. Hallahan supports the bill because he feels current state laws fail to adequately prevent individuals with motor vehicle DUI convictions from operating a watercraft, putting lives at risk. He feels the bill addresses this loophole and will make our waterways and roadways safer, helping to prevent avoidable tragedies and promote responsible boating.

**Samantha Hallahan**

Ms. Hallahan supports the bill because, he feels the bill is needed to help hold motorists and boaters responsible and accountable for operating their vehicles under the influence, and she says this bill will help alleviate the community of offenders who put the public at risk.

**Lauren Hallman**

Ms. Hallman supports the bill because she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer.

**Emily Hogan**

Ms. Hogan supports the bill because young lives were lost in the 2024 Old Saybrook boating accident and she feels the bill will help prevent future tragic incidents.

**Hailee Jarry**

Ms. Jarry supports the bill because, her sister was injured, and lost friends, in the 2024 Old Saybrook boating accident, she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer saying current state laws that don't require this is a dangerous loophole that needs to be legislatively closed.

**Samantha Jarry**

Ms. Jarry supports the bill because, as someone involved in boating safety advocacy, she feels current laws fail to properly prevent persons with motor vehicle DUI convictions from operating a watercraft, and she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer, helping to prevent avoidable tragedies and encourage responsible boating.

**Kathleen Hallahan**

Ms. Hallahan supports the bill because one of her loved ones passed away in the 2024 Old Saybrook, and she says the Old Saybrook community had endured too many boating tragedies.

### **Marijke Kehrhahn**

Ms. Kehrhahn supports the bill because she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer.

### **Kelsey Kievits**

Ms. Kievits supports the bill because, she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer.

### **Amanda Kostek**

Ms. Kostek supports the bill because she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer.

### **Todd Labrie**

Mr. Labrie supports the bill because he feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer and as someone who spends a lot of time boating on Fishers Island Sound and Long Island Sound, he feels at present there is a problem of too many people drinking on the water.

### **Kaylee Laing**

Ms. Laing supports the bill because, as a boater, she feels unsafe knowing folks who are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle, can still operate a watercraft. She feels the bill will make our waterways safer.

### **Makenzie Lannon**

Ms. Lannon supports the bill because, as someone involved in boating safety advocacy, she feels current laws fail to properly prevent persons with motor vehicle DUI convictions from operating a watercraft, and they feel ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer, helping to prevent avoidable tragedies and encourage responsible boating.

### **Christina Lawton**

Ms. Lawton supports the bill because she was a classmate of one of the persons who passed away in the 2024 Old Saybrook boating accident. She feels those operate watercraft under the influence should be held accountable and feel the bill will make our road and waterways safer.



### **Isabella Lepoer**

Ms. Lepoer supports the bill because they feel it aligns with broader public safety efforts on road and waterways.

### **Charlotte Limosani**

Ms. Limosani supports the bill because she knew some of the people who passed away in the 2024 Old Saybrook boating accident, and she feels if passed, the bill will help prevent future tragedies and save lives.

### **Thomas Martin**

Mr. Martin supports the bill because he is a first responder who has dealt with many incidents involving impaired vehicle operators, and a friend of someone who was killed by an impaired operator.

### **Stephanie Masella**

Ms. Masella supports the bill because she feels it will prioritize the safety of our waterways for everyone.

### **Traci McComiskey**

Ms. McComiskey supports the bill because she feels it will increase safety on our waterways and was surprised to learn this was not codified by law previously.

### **Erica Middleton**

Ms. Middleton supports the bill because her community has been deeply affected by the harm caused in the 2024 Old Saybrook boating accident, and she feels this bill will help prevent future lives from being lost.

### **Peter Moore**

Mr. Moore supports the bill because she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) will help make the states roadways and waterways safer and save lives.

### **Juliana Morin and Matt Morin**

Ms. Morin supports the bill because she supports strengthening the connection between motor vehicle DUI offenses, and BUI offenses that result in suspension or revocation of vehicle operation licenses and privileges.

### **Elizabeth Murphy**

Ms. Murphy supports the bill because her 36-year-old son was killed by a hit and run driver and feels the passage of this bill with support change for the good of the entire community.

### **Sheri Muscarella**

Ms. Muscarella supports the bill because she is a friend of one of the parents who lost a child in the 2024 Labor Day boating accident. She feels that while the bill's provisions may be harder to enforce, she feels the knowledge that there are stricter penalties for BUI and DUI infractions, may deter more instances of BUI.

### **Representative Mary Mushinsky, Connecticut General Assembly**

Representative Mushinsky supports section 19 of the bill because, she introduced the legislation as PHB 6710. She supports closing a loophole in CT vehicle registration law where at present, when an individual party sells a motor vehicle, the title may still be in the seller's name years after the sale. Section 19 would provide for a "Notice of Transfer" requirement where state law would require the seller provide details of the sale to the DMV as proof of transfer of ownership. She feels this will protect private sellers and buyers of automobiles in the state. She also supports the bill's provisions to reduce impaired driving instances in the state.

### **Renne Parker**

Ms. Parker supports the bill because she says she sees folks engaging in risky behaviors on the water while drinking alcohol all the time, and she feels this bill will help hold these persons accountable and save lives.

### **David Pazzaglia, Pazzaglia Law, LLC**

Mr. Pazzaglia supports the bill because he says its provisions related to improving enforcement of persons involved in DUI and BUI offenses are common sense, and without the legislation being approved, he says persons who continue to commit DUI offenses with no effect on their boating license, may continue to commit BUI offenses, leading to unnecessary accidents and death. He sees this bill as essential for public safety.

### **Jennifer Pazzaglia**

Ms. Pazzaglia supports the bill because she supports strengthening the connection between DUI offenses and boating licenses. She recently lost her brother due to boater negligence and to an operator that was under the influence and had DUI charges pending. She feels ensuring boating license suspension occurring when someone faces motor vehicle DUI charges, will prevent future tragedies, and help make our road and waterways safer.

### **Jenna Peck**

Ms. Peck supports the bill because she supports strengthening the connection between DUI offenses and boating licenses. She feels ensuring boating license suspension occurring when someone faces motor vehicle DUI charges, will prevent future tragedies, and help make our road and waterways safer. She feels the bill closes a loophole in current statute that should not exist in the first place, viewing the bill as common sense.

**Robert Petzold, President, Petzold's Marine Center Portland and Board Member, Connecticut Marine Trades Association**

Mr. Petzold supports lines 1037-1039 related to pontoon boats, stating that at present individuals pay a state registration fee based on boat length, however for pontoon boats, which are loosely defined, the fee is \$40 regardless of length. The new legislation will remove this provision and charge the same length-based fee all other boats receive. He feels this change will make the vessel registration fee structure more equitable and simplify its administration.

**Duane Pierson**

Ms. Pierson supports the bill because she says too many lives have been lost by persons operating vehicles under the influence.

**Jill Quinn**

Ms. Quinn supports the bill because, as someone on the water frequently, she doesn't want to see boating accidents because of an impaired operator and agrees that if someone has a motor vehicle DUI pending, they should not be able to operate any type of vessel.

**Julia Reagan**

Ms. Reagan supports the bill because she lost friends in the 2024 Old Saybrook boating incident due to an irresponsible driver. She feels current laws do not prevent individuals with motor vehicle DUI infractions from operating a watercraft, endangering lives. She says this bill closes a loophole to ensure that is prevented going forward.

**Garritt Rehberg**

Mr. Rehberg supports the bill because he feels you should not be able to operate a boat if your driver's license is suspended, and he says this bill will improve public safety.

**Mario Scalise**

Mr. Scalise supports the bill because he feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) the bill will close a loophole and help prevent future avoidable tragedies and encourage responsible boating. He says the need for this law is clearly illustrated by the events of the 2024 Labor Day boating accident in Old Saybrook that took the lives of three young men.

**Elizabeth Shea**

Ms. Shea supports the bill because he wishes to highlight the fact that BUI is just as dangerous if not more so, statistically, than motor vehicle DUI. She wishes for people to understand just how dangerous boating under the influence can be.

**Kevin Smith, Consultant, Connecticut Custom Carts, LLC**

Mr. Smith supports the bill because, in section 11, the bill addresses a consequence of a prior change in statute that puts small low speed vehicle retailers in the same category as large new car dealerships. He states this is not appropriate in terms of many regulatory requirements, to impose these rules on retailers that focus on the much smaller market for low-speed electric vehicles (such as golf carts).

**Molly Spooner**

Ms. Spooner supports the bill because she feels the parameters of the legislation would help prevent future BUI accidents, such as the one that occurred in Old Saybrook on Labor Day, 2024.

**Nancy Stancavage**

Ms. Stancavage supports the bill because she has had many close calls with inebriated boaters, and states that the impaired boater involved in the 2024 Old Saybrook boating incident should lose both their boating and driver's license, and that she feels every vehicle in the state going forward should have a breath test requirement.

**Caroline Surdo**

Ms. Surdo supports the bill because she says it's essential to connect one's record and penalties for DUI with BUI to make waterways safer. She feels this should already be codified in state law.

**Athanasula Tanasi**

Ms. Tanasi supports the bill because she feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) the bill will close a loophole and help prevent future avoidable tragedies and encourage responsible boating.

**Dylan Taylor**

Mr. Taylor supports the bill because he feels persons who operate a motor vehicle while intoxicated, should not be allowed to operate any vehicle or watercraft at all.

**Brianna Terri**

Ms. Terri supports the bill because she feels it will help ensure tragedies like the 2024 Old Saybrook boating incident do not occur again.

**Matthew Tiscornia**

Mr. Tiscornia supports the bill because he feels ensuring linking motor vehicle license suspension DUI's to boating license suspensions for BUIs (and vice versa) the bill will close a loophole and help prevent future avoidable tragedies and encourage responsible boating.

**Patricia Trolan**

Ms. Trolan supports the bill because she feels motor vehicle DUI offenses should result in loss of operating privileges for all vehicles.

**Cathy Wade**

Ms. Wade supports the bill because she feels motor vehicle DUI offenses should result in loss of operating privileges for all vehicles.

**Evelyn Werner**

Ms. Werner supports the bill because she feels strengthening the connection between DUI and BUI convictions and ensuring they carry equal consequences will make communities safer and prevent accidents. She views the legislation as common sense.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Mike Belcuore, Manager Driver Education Operations, AAA Club Alliance**

Mr. Belcuore opposes the bill, noting that while AAA is cognizant and understands the need for quality driver education, and understands that it is more difficult to prevent student distraction in a remote learning environment, AAA believes remote driver education programs are important in addressing a shortage of traditional in person driver education schools across the state in recent years.

**Brandon Dufour, CEO, The Next Street**

Mr. Dufour opposes the bill, because he disagrees that in person learning is inherently more effective than virtual learning. As opposed to eliminating virtual driver education outright, he suggests allowing it, but requiring a live instructor, requiring active student engagement, require web cameras to be always on, require all students to be in a safe and stationary location for the entire course, and banning all digital multitasking (enforced by the web camera requirement).

**Marco Giannone, Owner, Central Driving School, Berlin**

Mr. Giannone opposes the bill, feeling that offering the flexibility for virtual learning is important for addressing coverage gaps, and students without reliable transportation. He states his school offers both online and in-person classes, and his students are engaged in both with live and interactive instruction.

**Sebby Giannone, Owner, Frank's Driving School**

Mr. Giannone opposes the bill, saying it eliminates all the progress and improvements in virtual learning that have been made since it was first implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a waste of all the investments that have been made transitioning to online classes in the last few years. He also notes the flexibility of virtual learning has enabled many persons to complete driver education who otherwise would not have had the ability to do so.

**Bree Hockenberry, Owner, All American Driver Education**

Ms. Hockenberry opposes the bill because she recently changed their entire classroom setup to support virtual learning.

**Karen Midura, Manager, Glastonbury Driving School**

Ms. Midura opposes the bill because she feels it won't have any effect on the rate of teenage driver involved car accidents in the state.

**Steven Mochel, CEO, Fresh Green Light Driving School**

Mr. Mochel opposes the bill on the grounds he disagrees with the assumption that virtual learning is less effective than in-person instruction. He states that since virtual driver education has been implemented, he's seen higher student engagement, better attendance, and improved satisfaction scores. He instead suggests virtual learning standards be put into place, requiring live instruction, mandating web cameras be always on, requiring students to participate from safe, stationary locations, and prohibiting digital multitasking during class.

**Cici Petri, Treasurer Connecticut Driving School Professionals and Owner, CC Drive Education**

Ms. Petri opposes the bill. She's found students are more likely to engage in the online class than in person, because online she can use text chat. She also finds it easier for parents to listen in on the class, which she says helps them teach her children to drive more effectively. She also cites the improved attendance rates, and flexibility the remote learning classes offer.

**Marie Winters Trant, Secretary, Connecticut Driving School Professionals and Owner, Lewis School of Driving**

Ms. Trant opposes the bill because she is opposed to mandating in person classroom learning. She does not feel whether the 8-hour class, required for under 18-year-olds, taught in person or online, has much reflection on whether a student passes or fails the road test. She feels a lack of driving at home is the issue, with parents signing off that their child has completed 40 hours of home driving training behind the wheel, even if they have not done so. She feels this is an issue of parental responsibility.

**Reported by: Patrick Riley & Alex Sferrazza**

**Date: 3/27/2025**