

# Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-234 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT PERMITTING SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD DRIVERS TO  
**Title:** TRANSPORT SIBLINGS.

**Vote Date:** 3/16/26

**Vote Action:** JFS TO THE FLOOR

**PH Date:** 3/2/2026

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Transportation Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Many parents, due to work schedules, often face difficulty coordinating rides for their kids to get to extracurricular activities. This bill intends to relieve parents of that burden by allowing a newly licensed sibling to transport a younger sibling to extracurricular activities.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):**

The distracted driving laws have been successful in preventing deaths among youthful operators, thus the committee decided to keep existing law in place. A small change was made that allows a 16- and 17-year-old learner's permit holder to drive with their sibling as a passenger as long as the sibling also holds a learner's permit and is accompanied by an adult aged 20 or older that has been licensed for at least 4 years. This is designed to help parents with twins to instruct them at the same time instead of individually.

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

### **Antonio Gurrera, Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles:**

The commissioner expressed concerns towards this proposal arguing that while he acknowledges that periodic review is reasonable to continue that our statutes continue to serve their purpose, he believes that the risks that come with distracted driving outweigh some of the inconveniences associated with current requirements; the current statute has proven to be durable and successful.

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

**Vincent Candelora. Representative, State of Connecticut:**

Allowing licensed drivers to transport their siblings offers a commonsense solution to a challenge faced by many families. Siblings are more likely to reinforce parent and guardian rules. I support amending the graduated driver's license statute to not having to wait six months.

**Jeffery Babbin:**

There are many situations where siblings might need to attend the same event and the one with the license should be able to transport a sibling. My twins are not legally able to drive to school together in the morning.

**Tyler and Matthew Medina:**

As a fifteen-year-old student with a twin brother we are requesting your consideration for an amendment to the teen driving laws specifically to allow twin siblings to drive together. We propose including an exemption allowing biological twins to transport each other to or from school, work, medical appointments or extra circular activities. The change reduces the financial burden of parents from purchasing two vehicles for each child and promote environmental efficiency without compromising the current law.

**Conor Price:**

As the oldest sibling in my family with two busy parents whose schedules often collide, being able to drive my younger sibling would take a lot off weight off my parents' shoulders. 60% of teens already drive with a family member in the car, and according to Connecticut By The Numbers, Connecticut is already marked 12<sup>th</sup> in teen driver safety.

**The following individuals have broadly supported the bill:**

Timothy Gallogly

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**TIMOTHY HOLLISTER:**

In 2006 I lost my son Reid 17 years old to a one car crash and a year later our state witnessed back to back teen driver crashes. Between October and November 2007 seven teens were killed in a six-week period. Then Governor Rell appointed me to the Safe Teen Driving Task Force. We overhauled our teen driver laws and over the next five years Connecticut led the nation with a 70 percent reduction in teen driver crashes and fatalities. This bill will reverse that progress. This bill is not a safe teen driving bill but a parent convenience bill. In my book Not So Fast I provide this advice to parents "Don't let your own convenience get in the way of your teen driver's safety."

**AAA Clubs:**

**Alec Slatky, Northeast Managing Director**

**Tracy Noble, Manager, Public and Government**

Connecticut strengthened the state's graduated Driver Licensing after a spate of tragic teen driver crashes. Those laws decreased the number of such crashes to single digits. The presence of even one teen passenger increases the risk to the driver. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration rates GDL restrictions as a counter measure to young driver crashes. This bill interferes with the progress that Connecticut has made in establishing a

regime of laws that support teens acquiring the skills and experience needed behind the wheel. Keep Connecticut's strong driver licensing laws intact and do not be persuaded by arguments of convenience.

**Kevin Borrup, Executive Director, Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's**

Our Injury Preventing Center works to keep children safe and that includes ensuring that teens gain driving experience that reduces their risk of being involved in a crash.

**Eric George, Esq., President, Insurance Association of Connecticut**

**Kristina Baldwin, Esq., Vice-President, American Property and Casualty Insurance Association**

**Sean McLaughlin, Regional Vice-President, State Affairs Northeast of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies:**

Motor vehicle crash risk of death is significantly higher for teenagers than among any age group, with fatal crashes nearly three times higher than that of drivers aged 20 or above. The risk increases by 44% when teen drivers have another passenger younger than 21 in the vehicle with them. The risk of crash is particularly highest during the earliest months of licensure. While some studies have shown that child passengers riding with a sibling teen driver faces a slightly lower risk of injury than those riding with a non-sibling teen driver, both groups still remain a significant risk.

**Reported by: Pamela Bianca**

**Date: 3/17/26**