



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 451

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 234

Senate, April 7, 2026

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS FOR YOUTH INSTRUCTION PERMIT HOLDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 14-36 of the 2026 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 (c) (1) A person who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and who has
5 not had a motor vehicle operator's license or right to operate a motor
6 vehicle in this state suspended or revoked may apply to the
7 commissioner for a youth instruction permit. The commissioner may
8 issue a youth instruction permit to an applicant after the applicant has
9 (A) passed a test as to knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles
10 and the rules of the road, (B) paid the fee required by subsection (v) of
11 section 14-49, (C) passed a vision screening conducted by the
12 Department of Motor Vehicles or submitted to the commissioner the
13 results of a vision examination conducted by a licensed medical
14 professional, as defined in section 14-46b, that certifies that the applicant

15 meets the vision standards established in regulations adopted pursuant
16 to section 14-45a₂ and (D) filed a certificate, in such form as the
17 commissioner prescribes, requesting or consenting to the issuance of the
18 youth instruction permit and the motor vehicle operator's license,
19 signed by (i) one or both parents or foster parents of the applicant, as
20 the commissioner requires, (ii) the legal guardian of the applicant, (iii)
21 the applicant's spouse, if the spouse is eighteen years of age or older, or
22 (iv) if the applicant has no qualified spouse and such applicant's parent
23 or foster parent or legal guardian is deceased, incapable, domiciled
24 outside of this state or otherwise unavailable or unable to sign or file the
25 certificate, the applicant's stepparent, grandparent, or uncle or aunt by
26 blood or marriage, provided such person is eighteen years of age or
27 older. The commissioner may, for the more efficient administration of
28 the commissioner's duties, appoint any drivers' school licensed in
29 accordance with the provisions of section 14-69 or any secondary school
30 providing instruction in motor vehicle operation and highway safety in
31 accordance with section 14-36e to issue a youth instruction permit,
32 subject to such standards and requirements as the commissioner may
33 prescribe in regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of
34 chapter 54. Each youth instruction permit shall expire two years from
35 the date of issuance or on the date the holder of the permit is issued a
36 motor vehicle operator's license, whichever is earlier. Any holder of a
37 youth instruction permit who attains eighteen years of age may retain
38 such permit until the expiration of such permit. (2) The youth
39 instruction permit shall entitle the holder, while such holder has the
40 permit in his or her immediate possession, to operate a motor vehicle on
41 the public highways, provided such holder is under the instruction of,
42 and accompanied by, a person who holds an instructor's license issued
43 under the provisions of section 14-73 or a person twenty years of age or
44 older who has been licensed to operate, for at least four years preceding
45 the instruction, a motor vehicle of the same class as the motor vehicle
46 being operated and who has not had his or her motor vehicle operator's
47 license suspended by the commissioner during the four-year period
48 preceding the instruction. (3) Unless the holder of the permit is under
49 the instruction of and accompanied by a person who holds an

50 instructor's license issued under the provisions of section 14-73, no
 51 passenger in addition to the person providing instruction shall be
 52 transported unless such passenger is either (A) a parent or legal
 53 guardian of the holder of the permit, or (B) a sibling of such holder of
 54 the permit and such sibling also holds a youth instruction permit issued
 55 under the provisions of this section. (4) The holder of a youth instruction
 56 permit who (A) is an active member of a certified ambulance service, as
 57 defined in section 19a-175, (B) has commenced an emergency vehicle
 58 operator's course that conforms to the national standard curriculum
 59 developed by the United States Department of Transportation, and (C)
 60 has had state and national criminal history records checks conducted by
 61 the certified ambulance service or by the municipality in which such
 62 ambulance service is provided, shall be exempt from the provisions of
 63 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection only when such holder is
 64 driving to or from the location of the ambulance for purposes of
 65 responding to an emergency call. (5) The commissioner may revoke any
 66 youth instruction permit used in violation of the limitations imposed by
 67 subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	14-36(c)

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
State Resources	GF&TF - Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF&TF=General Fund & Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which allows 16- and 17-year-old learner's permit holders to have their sibling as a passenger during driving instruction in certain circumstances, results in a minimal potential revenue loss to the state from fewer fines.¹

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of offenses and fines collected.

¹ Between FY 22 and FY 25, there were a total of 845 offenses recorded and \$9,840 in fines collected under CGS § 14-36(c).

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 234

AN ACT CONCERNING PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS FOR YOUTH INSTRUCTION PERMIT HOLDERS.

SUMMARY

This bill allows 16- and 17-year-old learner’s permit holders to have their sibling as a passenger during driving instruction if the sibling also holds a learner’s permit.

By law, learner’s permit holders may drive only if they have a licensed driver (age 20 or older with at least four years of licensure) riding with and instructing them. Under current law, the only passengers 16- and 17-year-old permit holders may have during this instruction are their parents or legal guardians, unless they are being instructed by a licensed driving instructor (for example, as a part of a driver’s education course).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/16/2026)