



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 466**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 413

*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 REVISING VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 14-253a of the  
2 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following  
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications  
5 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from [(1)]  
6 (A) any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; [(2)] (B) any  
7 person with disabilities; [(3)] (C) any parent or guardian of any person  
8 who is blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is under  
9 eighteen years of age at the time of application; [(4)] (D) any parent or  
10 guardian of any person who is blind or any person with disabilities, if  
11 such person is unable to request or complete an application; and [(5)] (E)  
12 any organization which meets criteria established by the commissioner  
13 and which certifies to the commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for  
14 which a placard is requested is primarily used to transport persons who

15 are blind or persons with disabilities.

16 (2) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, on and after  
17 October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept applications for  
18 special license plates, but shall accept renewal applications for such  
19 plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.

20 (3) No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section  
21 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's  
22 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions  
23 of section 1-1h. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance  
24 with the provisions of chapter 54, for the issuance of placards to persons  
25 who, by reason of hardship, do not hold or cannot obtain an operator's  
26 license or identification card. The commissioner shall maintain a record  
27 of each placard issued to any such person.

28 (4) Such applications and renewal applications shall be on a form  
29 prescribed by the commissioner. The application and renewal  
30 application shall include:

31 (A) (i) Certification by a licensed physician, a licensed physician  
32 assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed in accordance  
33 with the provisions of chapter 378, or a member of the driver training  
34 unit for persons with disabilities established pursuant to section 14-11b,  
35 that the applicant meets the definition of a person with a disability  
36 which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR 1235.2,  
37 as amended from time to time; [or (B)] (ii) certification by a psychiatrist  
38 who is employed by, or under contract with, the United States  
39 Department of Veterans Affairs that the applicant [(i)] (I) is a veteran, as  
40 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who has post-traumatic stress  
41 disorder certified as service-connected by the United States Department  
42 of Veterans Affairs, and [(ii)] (II) meets the definition of a person with a  
43 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23  
44 CFR 1235.2, as amended from time to time; [ In] or (iii) in the case of  
45 persons who are blind, [the application or renewal application shall  
46 include] certification of legal blindness [made] by the Department of  
47 Aging and Disability Services, an ophthalmologist or an optometrist;

48       (B) (i) A list of each criterion that qualifies an applicant as a person  
49 with a disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, and (ii)  
50 instruction to the certifying health care professional to select the  
51 applicable criterion and initial each selected criterion to indicate that  
52 such selected criterion forms the basis for the certification; and

53       (C) A quick response code or comparable electronic identifier that  
54 will enable the certifying health care professional or any person using  
55 such code or identifier to access educational materials developed by the  
56 Accessible Parking Advisory Council, established under section 14-  
57 253c, as amended by this act, concerning the requirements to obtain a  
58 removable windshield placard.

59       (5) Any certification issued by a health care professional pursuant to  
60 this section shall be based upon such person's professional opinion after  
61 having completed a medically reasonable assessment of the applicant's  
62 medical history and current medical condition made in the course of a  
63 bona fide health care professional-patient relationship. Any person who  
64 makes a certification required by this subsection shall sign the  
65 application or renewal application under penalty of false statement  
66 pursuant to section 53a-157b. The commissioner, in said commissioner's  
67 discretion, may accept the discharge papers of a disabled veteran, as  
68 defined in section 14-254, in lieu of such certification. The Commissioner  
69 of Motor Vehicles may require additional certification at the time of the  
70 original application or at any time thereafter. If a person who has been  
71 requested to submit additional certification fails to do so within thirty  
72 days of the request, or if such additional certification is deemed by the  
73 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the  
74 commissioner may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or  
75 revoke such special license plate or placard.

76       (6) The commissioner shall not issue more than one placard per  
77 applicant, except the commissioner shall issue one placard to each  
78 applicant who is a parent or guardian of any person who is blind or any  
79 person with disabilities, provided no more than two such placards shall  
80 be issued on behalf of such person.

81       (7) The fee for the issuance of a temporary removable windshield  
82 placard shall be five dollars.

83       (8) Any person whose application has been denied or whose special  
84 license plate or placard has been suspended or revoked shall be afforded  
85 an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of  
86 chapter 54.

87       (c) Any person who meets the requirements to obtain a removable  
88 windshield placard pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and who  
89 has a motorcycle registered in such person's name shall be issued, upon  
90 approval of the application, number plates in accordance with the  
91 provisions of subsection (a) of section 14-21b, which shall bear letters or  
92 numerals or any combination thereof followed by the symbol of access.  
93 The registration of any motorcycle for which a special license plate is  
94 issued shall expire and be renewed as provided in section 14-22 and be  
95 subject to the fee provisions of section 14-49. No person shall be issued  
96 such number plates for the registration of more than two motorcycles.  
97 Any person eligible to obtain a special license plate pursuant to this  
98 section who transfers the expired registration of a motorcycle owned by  
99 such person and replaces such number plate with a special license plate  
100 shall be exempt from payment of any fee for such transfer or  
101 replacement. A person who obtains a special plate or plates under this  
102 subsection may also obtain a removable windshield placard in  
103 accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

104       (d) (1) Any placard issued pursuant to this section shall be displayed  
105 by hanging it from the front windshield rearview mirror of the vehicle  
106 when utilizing a parking space reserved for persons who are blind and  
107 persons with disabilities. If there is no rearview mirror in such vehicle,  
108 the placard shall be displayed in clear view on the dashboard of such  
109 vehicle.

110       (2) On and after October 1, 2023, any placard issued pursuant to this  
111 section shall not bear the words "parking permit for persons with  
112 disabilities". Any placard issued prior to October 1, 2023, that is  
113 otherwise valid, shall remain valid, according to its terms, until the

114 expiration of such placard.

115 (3) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the  
116 Accessible Parking Advisory Council, shall redesign the removable  
117 windshield placard such that the date of expiration is printed in  
118 conspicuous boldface font and prominent when such placard is viewed  
119 from outside the motor vehicle. On and after January 1, 2027, any  
120 placard issued pursuant to this section shall be the redesigned placard.  
121 Any placard issued prior to January 1, 2027, that is otherwise valid, shall  
122 remain valid, according to its terms, until the expiration of such placard.

123 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 14-253c of the 2026 supplement to the  
124 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
125 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

126 (a) There is established an Accessible Parking Advisory Council,  
127 which shall be within the Department of Motor Vehicles for  
128 administrative purposes only. The advisory board shall: (1) Develop a  
129 strategy to detect, deter and prevent fraud and misuse from occurring  
130 with regard to the issuance and use of removable windshield placards  
131 for persons who are blind and persons with disabilities from occurring  
132 without adversely impacting persons who are blind and persons with  
133 disabilities, (2) review the laws in other states concerning the issuance  
134 and use of such removable windshield placards, (3) recommend best  
135 practices for policies and regulations regarding the application for, and  
136 issuance and use of, removable windshield placards and the  
137 enforcement of subsection (l) of section 14-253a, (4) identify and make  
138 recommendations regarding streetscape issues that interfere with the  
139 ability of a person who is blind or person with disabilities to access and  
140 use public and private areas reserved for exclusive use by persons who  
141 are blind or persons with disabilities, (5) make educational materials,  
142 including, but not limited to, videos or online trainings, available to  
143 [medical] health care professionals, as defined in section 14-253a, as  
144 amended by this act, law enforcement officers and the general public  
145 regarding the proper issuance and use of such removable windshield  
146 placards, and (6) review the status of such removable windshield

147 placards issued to persons who are blind and persons with disabilities  
148 prior to January 1, 2010, for the lifetime of such persons.

149 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 14-36a of the general statutes is  
150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
151 *1, 2027*):

152 (d) (1) A license of any class that contains the designation "Q"  
153 indicates eligibility to operate fire apparatus. A "Q" endorsement shall  
154 signify that the holder [either] has been trained to operate fire apparatus  
155 in accordance with standards established by the Commission on Fire  
156 Prevention and Control, [or] has qualifying military training and  
157 experience as described in subdivision (2) of this subsection or has  
158 recognition for a credential, endorsement or classification issued by  
159 another state as described in subdivision (3) of this subsection. Except  
160 as provided in subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection, no such  
161 endorsement shall be issued to any person until such person  
162 demonstrates personally to the commissioner, or the commissioner's  
163 designee, including the Connecticut Fire Academy, any regional fire  
164 school or the chief local fire official of any municipality, as defined in  
165 section 7-323j, by means of testing in a representative vehicle that such  
166 person possesses the skills necessary for operation of fire apparatus.

167 (2) If the holder of a license of any class is (A) a veteran who applies  
168 to the commissioner for a "Q" endorsement not later than two years after  
169 the date of discharge from the military and who, not more than two  
170 years prior to such discharge, met the conditions and limitations set  
171 forth in 49 CFR 383.77(a)(2) or 49 CFR 383.77(b)(2), as amended from  
172 time to time, or (B) a member of the armed forces or the National Guard  
173 who applies to the commissioner for a "Q" endorsement and who meets  
174 the conditions and limitations set forth in 49 CFR 383.77(a)(2) or 49 CFR  
175 383.77(b)(2), as amended from time to time, the commissioner shall  
176 waive the requirement under subdivision (1) of this subsection to  
177 demonstrate that such veteran or member possesses the skills necessary  
178 for operation of fire apparatus. The commissioner shall prescribe the  
179 form and manner by which such veteran or member shall apply for such

180 waiver. As used in this subparagraph, "veteran" and "armed forces"  
181 have the same meanings as provided in section 27-103.

182 (3) If the holder of an out-of-state motor vehicle operator's license  
183 with a credential, endorsement or classification that permits such person  
184 to operate fire apparatus in such other state applies to the commissioner  
185 for a "Q" endorsement, the commissioner shall waive the requirement  
186 under subdivision (1) of this subsection if the Commission on Fire  
187 Prevention and Control finds such license with a credential,  
188 endorsement or classification was issued by such other state with  
189 standards substantially equivalent to or exceeding the standards of this  
190 state.

191 Sec. 4. Subdivision (32) of section 14-1 of the 2026 supplement to the  
192 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
193 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

194 (32) "Electric scooter" means a device (A) that weighs not more than  
195 one hundred ten pounds, (B) that has two or three wheels and  
196 handlebars, (C) that is designed to be ridden on in an upright or seated  
197 position, (D) that is powered by an electric motor and human power,  
198 and (E) whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion on  
199 a paved level surface, is not more than twenty miles per hour. "Electric  
200 scooter" does not include an electric bicycle or one-wheeled vehicle;

201 Sec. 5. Section 14-153b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
202 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

203 (a) For the purposes of this section, "passenger motor vehicle" does  
204 not include (1) a passenger motor vehicle classified as full-size elite,  
205 premium, premium elite, luxury, luxury elite, oversized, [or] special,  
206 open air all-terrain, sport or convertible by ACRISS, formerly known as  
207 the Association of Car Rental Industry System Standards, or a successor  
208 to its functions, or (2) a sport utility vehicle designed to transport six or  
209 more passengers.

210 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no person, firm

211 or corporation engaged in the business of renting or leasing passenger  
212 motor vehicles without drivers, for periods of thirty days or less, shall  
213 require any customer to show proof that such customer holds a credit  
214 card as a condition to the rental of a passenger motor vehicle; provided  
215 such person, firm or corporation may require that a customer, seeking  
216 to rent for cash, apply for approval to rent up to three business days  
217 before the expected rental and that such customer provide both suitable  
218 identification and a reasonable deposit.

219 (c) No person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of renting  
220 or leasing passenger motor vehicles without drivers, for periods of  
221 thirty days or less, shall require an additional driver of any customer to  
222 show proof that the additional driver holds a credit card or debit card  
223 as a condition to the rental of a passenger motor vehicle to the customer,  
224 provided such additional driver shows proof of a valid motor vehicle  
225 operator's license and the customer shows proof that the customer holds  
226 a credit card or debit card.

227 Sec. 6. Section 14-15d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
228 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
229 *October 1, 2026*):

230 (a) Each electronic issuance licensee, licensed pursuant to section 14-  
231 15e, shall, not later than ten days after the electronic issuance of a  
232 certificate of registration or certificate of title, submit to the  
233 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles an application together with all  
234 necessary documents required to obtain a certificate of registration or  
235 certificate of title for the vehicle with the Department of Motor Vehicles.  
236 If such licensee fails to provide the department with such necessary  
237 documents, the department shall not process the application and shall  
238 inform such licensee of the failure to submit a completed application.

239 (b) Any electronic issuance licensee who files such applications  
240 electronically shall provide a form, as prescribed by the commissioner,  
241 to the owner or lessee of the motor vehicle that is the subject of such  
242 application. Such form shall include (1) the amount of any fee charged  
243 by such licensee to file such application electronically, (2) a statement

244 that such licensee is not affiliated with the department, (3) information  
245 regarding how such owner or lessee may file a complaint with the  
246 department concerning a transaction performed pursuant to this  
247 section, and (4) any other information prescribed by the commissioner.  
248 Such licensee shall require such owner or lessee to acknowledge the  
249 information contained in such form by obtaining such owner or lessee's  
250 signature on such form.

251 (c) If an electronic issuance licensee maintains an Internet web site for  
252 its business, the electronic issuance licensee shall prominently disclose  
253 on such Internet web site the following: (1) A statement that such  
254 licensee is not affiliated with the Department of Motor Vehicles, and (2)  
255 a statement that a person may complete transactions on the Internet web  
256 site of the Department of Motor Vehicles at no additional charge.

257 ~~[(c) No]~~ (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this  
258 subsection, no electronic issuance licensee who files an application  
259 electronically pursuant to this section shall charge the owner or lessee  
260 of the motor vehicle that is the subject of any such application a fee in  
261 excess of twenty-five dollars to file such application electronically with  
262 the department.

263 (2) An electronic issuance licensee may charge an additional fee for  
264 the optional service of document preparation and consultation services  
265 regarding corrections to a certificate of title and lien recordings,  
266 provided (A) any such optional service shall be separately stated and  
267 agreed to by the consumer, in writing, prior to the performance of such  
268 optional service, and (B) such licensee does not require the consumer to  
269 purchase such optional service as a condition of electronically filing an  
270 application for the issuance of a certificate of registration or a certificate  
271 of title for motor vehicles with the Department of Motor Vehicles. If an  
272 electronic issuance licensee maintains an Internet web site for its  
273 business, the electronic issuance licensee shall prominently disclose the  
274 availability of any such optional service and the associated fee on such  
275 Internet web site.

276 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance

277 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this  
278 section.

279 Sec. 7. Subdivision (2) of section 13a-175p of the general statutes is  
280 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
281 *1, 2026*):

282 (2) "Eligible bridge" means a bridge located within one or more  
283 municipalities in the state, [the physical condition of which requires it]  
284 or a structure located within one or more municipalities in the state with  
285 a clear span of more than six feet in width that includes a permanent  
286 overhead structure that encloses a public right-of-way, that the  
287 commissioner determined needs to be removed, replaced,  
288 reconstructed, rehabilitated or improved [as determined by the  
289 commissioner] due to the physical condition of such bridge or structure.

290 Sec. 8. Section 14-289k of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
291 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
292 *October 1, 2026*):

293 (a) Except as provided in this section, the rider of an electric bicycle  
294 shall be afforded the same rights and privileges and subject to the same  
295 duties as the rider of a bicycle.

296 (b) Except as provided in this section or where prohibited by local  
297 ordinance, an electric bicycle may be ridden where bicycles are  
298 permitted to travel.

299 (c) A class 3 electric bicycle shall not be ridden on a bicycle trail or  
300 path or multiuse trail or path.

301 (d) Except where permitted by local ordinance, a class 2 electric  
302 bicycle shall not be ridden on a bicycle trail or path or multiuse trail or  
303 path designated for nonmotorized traffic if such trail or path has a  
304 natural surface tread made by clearing and grading the soil and no  
305 surfacing materials have been added.

306 (e) No [person] child under the age of sixteen shall (1) ride a class 3

307 electric bicycle, [ Any person under the age of sixteen may] or (2) sit as  
308 a passenger on a class 3 electric bicycle, [provided] unless such bicycle  
309 is equipped or designed to carry a passenger and such child is wearing  
310 protective headgear as described in subsection (f) of this section. Failure  
311 to comply with this subsection shall not be a violation or an offense.  
312 Failure of such child to wear protective headgear when a passenger on  
313 a class 3 electric bicycle shall not be considered to be contributory  
314 negligence on the part of the parent or the child nor shall such failure be  
315 admissible in any civil action. A law enforcement officer may issue a  
316 verbal warning to the parent or guardian of a child that such child has  
317 failed to comply with the provisions of this subsection.

318 (f) No person who is sixteen years of age or older shall ride or sit as a  
319 passenger on an electric bicycle unless such person is wearing protective  
320 headgear that conforms to the minimum specifications established for  
321 bicycle helmets by the American National Standards Institute, the  
322 United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, the American  
323 Society for Testing and Materials or the Snell Memorial Foundation's  
324 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling, as amended from  
325 time to time.

326 (g) The provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this section shall  
327 not apply to any police officer, firefighter or emergency medical  
328 technician engaged in the performance of the duties of such officer,  
329 firefighter or technician.

330 (h) [Violation] Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a  
331 violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

332 Sec. 9. Section 14-212 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
333 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
334 *1, 2026*):

335 Terms used in this chapter and section 10 of this act shall be construed  
336 as follows, unless another construction is clearly apparent from the  
337 language or context in which the term is used or unless the construction  
338 is inconsistent with the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

339 (1) The following terms shall be construed as they are defined in  
340 section 14-1, as amended by this act: "Agricultural tractor", "authorized  
341 emergency vehicle", "class 1 electric bicycle", "class 2 electric bicycle",  
342 "class 3 electric bicycle", "commissioner", "driver", "electric bicycle",  
343 "electric scooter", "fuels", "gross weight", "head lamp", "high-mileage  
344 vehicle", "highway", "light weight", "limited access highway",  
345 "maintenance vehicle", "motor bus", "motorcycle", "motor vehicle  
346 registration", "nonresident", "nonskid device", "number plate", "officer",  
347 "operator", "owner", "passenger motor vehicle", "passenger and  
348 commercial motor vehicle", "person", "pneumatic tires", "pole trailer",  
349 "registration", "registration number", "second offense", "semitrailer",  
350 "shoulder", "solid tires", "stop", "subsequent offense", "tail lamp", "tank  
351 vehicle", "tractor", "tractor-trailer unit", "trailer", "truck" and "vanpool  
352 vehicle";

353 (2) "Carrier" means (A) any local or regional school district, any  
354 educational institution providing elementary or secondary education or  
355 any person, firm or corporation under contract to such district or  
356 institution engaged in the business of transporting students, [or] (B) any  
357 person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of transporting  
358 primarily persons under the age of twenty-one years for compensation,  
359 or (C) any platform carrier under contract to any local or regional school  
360 district to arrange transportation for students by platform drivers;

361 (3) "Digital network" means any online-enabled application, web site  
362 or system offered or utilized by a platform carrier that enables the  
363 arrangement of transporting students to or from school, school  
364 programs or school-sponsored events by platform drivers;

365 [(3)] (4) "Curb" includes the boundary of the traveled portion of any  
366 highway, whether or not the boundary is marked by a curbstone;

367 [(4)] (5) "Intersection" means the area embraced within the  
368 prolongation of the lateral curb lines of two or more highways which  
369 join one another at an angle, whether or not one of the highways crosses  
370 the other;

371 [(5)] (6) "Motor vehicle" includes all vehicles used on the public  
372 highways;

373 [(6)] (7) "Parking area" means lots, areas or other accommodations for  
374 the parking of motor vehicles off the street or highway and open to  
375 public use with or without charge;

376 (8) "Platform carrier" means a company, corporation, partnership,  
377 trust, association, sole proprietorship or similar organization that  
378 operates in this state and uses a digital network to arrange  
379 transportation of students to or from school, school programs or school-  
380 sponsored events with a platform vehicle;

381 (9) "Platform driver" means an individual who is not an employee of  
382 a platform carrier, but subcontracts with a platform carrier to provide  
383 transportation of students to or from school, school programs or school-  
384 sponsored events with a platform vehicle;

385 (10) "Platform vehicle" means a passenger motor vehicle that is  
386 owned, leased or otherwise used by a platform driver when such driver  
387 is connected to a platform carrier's digital network or is engaged in the  
388 provision of transporting students to or from school, school programs  
389 or school-sponsored events;

390 [(7)] (11) "Rotary" or "roundabout" means a physical barrier legally  
391 placed or constructed at an intersection to cause traffic to move in a  
392 circuitous course;

393 [(8)] (12) "Student" means any person under the age of twenty-one  
394 years who is attending a preprimary, primary or secondary school  
395 program of education;

396 [(9)] (13) "Student transportation vehicle" means any motor vehicle  
397 other than a registered school bus used by a carrier for the  
398 transportation of students to or from school, school programs or school-  
399 sponsored events and includes a platform vehicle; and

400 [(10)] (14) "Vehicle" has the same meaning as "motor vehicle".

401 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) A local or regional board of  
402 education may contract with a platform carrier for the transportation of  
403 students to or from school, school programs or school-sponsored events,  
404 provided such local or regional board of education confirms each  
405 platform vehicle to be used for the provision of such transportation (1)  
406 has passed the inspection required by section 14-102a of the general  
407 statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) is covered by a motor vehicle  
408 liability insurance policy that meets the requirements of section 14-29 of  
409 the general statutes, as amended by this act. Prior to the commencement  
410 of such transportation under any such contract, the local or regional  
411 board of education shall obtain documentation demonstrating  
412 compliance with subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection and maintain  
413 such documentation for the duration of the contract. The local or  
414 regional board of education shall require the platform carrier to  
415 promptly notify the board if any platform vehicle used to provide such  
416 transportation no longer meets the requirements of said subdivisions.

417 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2026, a platform carrier  
418 shall only arrange for the transportation of students who are homeless  
419 children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from  
420 time to time, or who are in foster care.

421 Sec. 11. Section 14-25c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
422 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

423 (a) As used in this section, "student transportation vehicle" means any  
424 motor vehicle other than a registered school bus used by a carrier for the  
425 transportation of students to or from school, school programs or school-  
426 sponsored events, but does not include a platform vehicle, as defined in  
427 section 14-212, as amended by this act.

428 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue distinctive  
429 registration marker plates to each motor vehicle, except a taxicab or  
430 motor vehicle in livery service, that is used as a student transportation  
431 vehicle. [, as defined in section 14-212.] Each such registration of a  
432 student transportation vehicle shall be issued for a period of one year  
433 and, subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of section 14-103, may be

434 renewed by the owner, in accordance with schedules established by the  
435 commissioner. The fee for such registration or for any renewal thereof  
436 shall be determined as follows: (1) In the case of any such motor vehicle  
437 designed as a service bus, the fee shall be one-half of the fee prescribed  
438 for the registration of a service bus, in accordance with the provisions of  
439 subsection (p) of section 14-49, and (2) in the case of any such motor  
440 vehicle designed as a passenger motor vehicle, the fee shall be one-half  
441 of the fee prescribed for the biennial combination registration of a  
442 passenger motor vehicle or one-third of the fee prescribed for the  
443 triennial combination registration of a passenger motor vehicle, in  
444 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of  
445 section 14-49.

446 Sec. 12. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-29 of the general statutes  
447 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
448 *1, 2026*):

449 (a) As used in this section, "student transportation vehicle", "platform  
450 vehicle" and "platform carrier" have the same meanings as provided in  
451 section 14-212, as amended by this act. The commissioner shall not  
452 register any motor bus, taxicab, school bus, motor vehicle in livery  
453 service, student transportation vehicle or service bus and no person may  
454 operate or cause to be operated upon any public highway any such  
455 motor vehicle until the owner or lessee thereof or, in the case of a  
456 platform vehicle, the platform carrier, has procured insurance or a bond  
457 satisfactory to the commissioner that shall indemnify the insured  
458 against any legal liability for personal injury, the death of any person or  
459 property damage, which injury, death or damage may result from or  
460 have been caused by the use or operation of such motor vehicle  
461 described in the contract of insurance or such bond. Such insurance or  
462 bond shall not be required from (1) a municipality which the  
463 commissioner finds has maintained sufficient financial responsibility to  
464 meet legal liability for personal injury, death or damage resulting from  
465 or caused by the use or operation of a service bus owned or operated by  
466 such municipality, or (2) the owner or lessee of such class of motor  
467 vehicle who holds a certificate of public necessity and convenience from

468 the Department of Transportation if such owner or lessee has procured  
469 from the department a certificate that the department has found that  
470 such owner or lessee is of sufficient financial responsibility to meet legal  
471 liability for personal injury, death or property damage resulting from or  
472 caused by the use or operation of such motor vehicle. The Department  
473 of Transportation may issue such certificate upon presentation of  
474 evidence of financial responsibility that is satisfactory to it.

475 (b) The amount of insurance or of such bond that each such vehicle  
476 owner or lessee or, in the case of a platform vehicle, the platform carrier  
477 shall carry as insurance or indemnity against claims for personal injury  
478 or death and legal liability resulting from damage to the property of  
479 passengers or others for any one accident shall be not less than (1) a  
480 single limit of liability of (A) one hundred thousand dollars, if such  
481 vehicle is designed or used to transport seven passengers or less, or (B)  
482 seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, if such vehicle is designed or used  
483 to transport eight to fourteen passengers without compensation; (2) the  
484 minimum amounts established in 49 CFR Part 387, as amended from  
485 time to time, if such vehicle is designed or used to transport eight  
486 passengers or more for compensation, or fifteen passengers or more  
487 without compensation; (3) one million five hundred thousand dollars, if  
488 such vehicle is operated in livery service under the provisions of  
489 sections 13b-101 to 13b-109, inclusive, and designed or used to transport  
490 fourteen passengers or less; and (4) five million dollars, if such vehicle  
491 is operated in livery service under the provisions of sections 13b-101 to  
492 13b-109, inclusive, and designed or used to transport fifteen passengers  
493 or more.

494 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 14-275 of the general statutes is  
495 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
496 *2026*):

497 (b) Each school bus shall be painted a uniform yellow color known as  
498 "National School Bus Glossy Yellow", except for the fenders and trim  
499 which may be painted black and the roof which may be painted white,  
500 and shall have conspicuously painted on the rear and on the front of

501 such vehicle, in black lettering of a size to be determined by the  
502 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the words "School Bus-Stop on  
503 Signal", except that each school bus equipped with an eight-light  
504 warning system shall have the words "School Bus" painted on the rear  
505 and on the front of such vehicle in such lettering. The sides of such  
506 vehicles may be inscribed with the words "School Bus", the school name  
507 or such other legend or device as may be necessary for purposes of  
508 identification or safety. Each school bus, and any student transportation  
509 vehicle [, as defined in section 14-212,] regularly used by any town,  
510 regional school district, private school or entity contracting with such  
511 town, regional school district or private school to transport school  
512 children to and from school or school activities, shall have  
513 conspicuously painted on the rear and sides of such bus or student  
514 transportation vehicle, in black lettering of a size to be determined by  
515 the commissioner, the name of the school bus company, the school bus  
516 company's telephone number and the school bus number or the name  
517 of the owner or operator of such student transportation vehicle, the  
518 telephone number of such owner or operator and the fleet number of  
519 such student transportation vehicle. For the purposes of this subsection,  
520 "student transportation vehicle" means any motor vehicle other than a  
521 registered school bus used by a carrier for the transportation of students  
522 to or from school, school programs or school-sponsored events, but does  
523 not include a platform vehicle, as defined in section 14-212, as amended  
524 by this act.

525 Sec. 14. Section 14-280 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
526 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

527 (a) (1) When a school bus is used for any purpose other than the  
528 transportation of children to and from schools or school activities,  
529 private or public camps or any other activities for which groups of  
530 children are transported, the special signals normally used when so  
531 engaged shall be left unused or disconnected.

532 (2) Any student transportation vehicle when engaged in the  
533 transportation of children to and from private or public camps or the

534 transportation exclusively of children to activities, except school  
535 activities, may display a sign or signs, as described in subsection (b) of  
536 this section. Any motor vehicle, other than a registered school bus, not  
537 owned by a public, private or religious school, or under contract to such  
538 school, when engaged in the transportation of school children to and  
539 from school or school activities, may display a sign or signs, as described  
540 in subsection (b) of this section.

541 (3) Any student transportation vehicle, when engaged in the  
542 transportation of school children to and from school or school activities,  
543 shall display a sign or signs, as described in subsection (b) of this section,  
544 except a student transportation vehicle, when engaged in the  
545 transportation of students aged eighteen to twenty-one, inclusive, who,  
546 as part of an individualized education program, are participating in  
547 community-based transition services, may display a sign or signs, as  
548 described in subsection (b) of this section.

549 (4) Any portable signs, as described in subsection (b) of this section,  
550 that are permitted or required under this section may be removed or  
551 covered when the vehicle is not being used for the purposes requiring  
552 or allowing the use of such signs as specified in this section.

553 (b) [The] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this section, the  
554 sign or signs permitted or required under subsection (a) of this section  
555 may be portable signs securely mounted on the roof or decal or painted  
556 signs, either of which shall be placed at a height of at least four feet and  
557 shall display the wording "CARRYING SCHOOL CHILDREN" in black  
558 lettering at least three inches high on yellow background visible to  
559 operators of vehicles approaching from front and rear. The words "Stop"  
560 or "Stop on signal" shall not be used.

561 (2) The sign or signs permitted or required under subsection (a) of  
562 this section for a platform vehicle, when engaged in the transportation  
563 of students to or from school, school programs or school-sponsored  
564 events, shall be a portable sign displayed on or near the roof of the  
565 vehicle at a height of at least four feet and shall display the wording  
566 "CARRYING SCHOOL CHILDREN" in black lettering on yellow

567 background visible to operators of vehicles approaching from front and  
568 rear. Such sign or signs may be magnetic or otherwise temporarily  
569 affixed to the exterior of the platform vehicle or displayed through  
570 another method approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

571 (3) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations in  
572 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing standards for  
573 the design, construction and attachment of such portable signs.

574 (c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a  
575 first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction, and for each  
576 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor  
577 more than five hundred dollars.

578 Sec. 15. Section 14-102a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
579 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

580 (a) For the purposes of this subsection, (1) "student transportation  
581 vehicle" means any motor vehicle other than a registered school bus  
582 used by a carrier for the transportation of students to or from school,  
583 school programs or school-sponsored events, but does not include a  
584 platform vehicle, and (2) "platform vehicle" and "platform driver" have  
585 the same meanings as provided in section 14-212, as amended by this  
586 act.

587 (b) Each student transportation vehicle shall be inspected for safety  
588 before its initial registration in accordance with a schedule to be adopted  
589 by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Each such student  
590 transportation vehicle shall pass such safety inspection before each  
591 renewal of registration.

592 (c) Each platform vehicle shall be inspected for safety prior to its  
593 initial use by a platform driver to transport students to or from school,  
594 school programs or school-sponsored events by the Department of  
595 Motor Vehicles and annually thereafter until such platform vehicle  
596 ceases to be used by a platform driver to provide such student  
597 transportation.

598 (d) Any student transportation vehicle or platform vehicle that  
599 transports individuals in wheelchairs shall meet the requirements of  
600 subsection (e) of section 14-100a in order to pass inspection.

601 (e) The fee for each such inspection shall be twenty dollars, except  
602 there shall be no fee for inspection of a student transportation vehicle  
603 owned by the state or a municipality.

604 Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 14-275c of the general statutes is  
605 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
606 *2026*):

607 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
608 provisions of chapter 54, governing (1) the inspection, registration,  
609 operation and maintenance of motor vehicles used by any carrier to  
610 transport students and the annual inspection of platform vehicles  
611 pursuant to section 14-102a, as amended by this act, and (2) the licensing  
612 of operators of such vehicles. A person who has attained the age of  
613 seventy shall be allowed to hold a license endorsement to operate a  
614 student transportation vehicle provided such person meets the  
615 minimum physical requirements set by the commissioner and agrees to  
616 submit to a physical examination by a medical examiner, certified in  
617 accordance with 49 CFR 390.109, at least annually or more frequently if  
618 directed to do so by such medical examiner or the superintendent of the  
619 school system in which such person intends to operate such vehicle.

620 Sec. 17. Subsection (c) of section 14-276 of the general statutes is  
621 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
622 *2026*):

623 (c) Not less than once during the first and third week of each month,  
624 a carrier shall review the report made by the Commissioner of Motor  
625 Vehicles, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h) of section  
626 14-44, with reference to the name and motor vehicle operator's license  
627 number of each person such carrier employs to operate a school bus, as  
628 defined in section 14-275, as amended by this act, or employs or  
629 subcontracts with to operate a student transportation vehicle, as defined

630 in section 14-212, as amended by this act. If, according to such report,  
631 any such employee's or subcontractor's motor vehicle operator's license  
632 or endorsement to operate a school bus or student transportation vehicle  
633 has been withdrawn, suspended or revoked, such carrier shall  
634 immediately prohibit such employee or subcontractor from operating a  
635 school bus or student transportation vehicle.

636 Sec. 18. Subsection (d) of section 14-276a of the general statutes is  
637 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
638 *2026*):

639 (d) A carrier shall require each person whom it intends to employ to  
640 operate a school bus, as defined in section 14-275, as amended by this  
641 act, or employ or subcontract with to operate a student transportation  
642 vehicle, as defined in section 14-212, as amended by this act, to submit  
643 to a urinalysis drug test in accordance with the provisions of sections  
644 31-51v and 31-51w and shall require each person it employs or  
645 subcontracts with to operate such vehicles to submit to a urinalysis drug  
646 test on a random basis in accordance with the provisions of section 31-  
647 51x, as amended by this act, and the standards set forth in 49 CFR Parts  
648 382 and 391. No carrier may employ or subcontract with any person  
649 who has received a positive test result for such test which was confirmed  
650 as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51u. No  
651 carrier may continue to employ or subcontract with as a driver, for two  
652 years, any person who has received a positive test result for such test  
653 which was confirmed as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
654 section 31-51u. No carrier may continue to employ or subcontract with  
655 as a driver, permanently, any person who has received a second positive  
656 test result for such test which was confirmed as provided in subdivision  
657 (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51u. The commissioner may, after  
658 notice and hearing, impose a civil penalty of not more than one  
659 thousand dollars for the first offense and two thousand five hundred  
660 dollars for each subsequent offense on any carrier which violates any  
661 provision of this subsection.

662 Sec. 19. Section 14-281b of the general statutes is repealed and the

663 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

664 (a) Within two days after a summons is issued to a holder of a license  
665 endorsement while the holder is operating a school bus or student  
666 transportation vehicle, a copy of the summons shall be transmitted to  
667 (1) the employer of the license endorsement holder or, if such holder is  
668 a platform driver, the platform carrier, and (2) the board of education  
669 for which such school bus or student transportation vehicle is  
670 performing contract services.

671 (b) Within five days of the conviction, forfeiture, nolle or other  
672 disposition of a holder of a license endorsement for any violation while  
673 operating a school bus or student transportation vehicle, a report of the  
674 conviction, forfeiture, nolle or other disposition shall be transmitted by  
675 the court to (1) the employer of the license endorsement holder or, if  
676 such holder is a platform driver, the platform carrier, and (2) the board  
677 of education for which such school bus or student transportation vehicle  
678 is performing contract services.

679 Sec. 20. Section 14-282a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
680 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

681 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall assign the necessary  
682 number of inspectors for the purpose of maintaining a system of  
683 continuing inspection of school buses and student transportation  
684 vehicles, investigation of accidents involving school buses and student  
685 transportation vehicles and investigation of complaints against the  
686 carriers, owners and drivers of school buses and student transportation  
687 vehicles, and to coordinate the various school bus safety programs.

688 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 31-51x of the general statutes is  
689 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
690 *2026*):

691 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
692 an employer may require an employee to submit to a urinalysis drug  
693 test on a random basis if (1) such test is authorized under federal law,

694 (2) the employee serves in an occupation which has been designated as  
 695 a high-risk or safety-sensitive occupation pursuant to regulations  
 696 adopted by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to chapter 54, [or] is  
 697 employed to operate a school bus, as defined in section 14-275, as  
 698 amended by this act, or is employed or subcontracted with to operate a  
 699 student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212, as amended  
 700 by this act, or (3) the urinalysis is conducted as part of an employee  
 701 assistance program sponsored or authorized by the employer in which  
 702 the employee voluntarily participates.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-253a(b) to (d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	14-253c(a)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	14-36a(d)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-1(32)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-153b
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-15d
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	13a-175p(2)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-289k
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-212
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-25c
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-29(a) and (b)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-275(b)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-280
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-102a
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-275c(b)
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-276(c)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-276a(d)
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-281b
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	14-282a
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	31-51x(b)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(b)(4)(C), "the certifying health care professional or" was inserted before "any person" for clarity, in section 9, the definition of "digital network" was inserted for clarity and the remaining subdivisions were renumbered accordingly, in Section 12(a), the first

sentence was added for statutory consistency, and in Section 15(c), "commissioner" was changed to "Department of Motor Vehicles" for accuracy.

**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 \$
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	TF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill results in the following impacts noted below.

**Section 7** expands eligibility under the local bridge program, which is funded through Special Tax Obligation (STO) bonds. Future Special Transportation Fund debt service costs may be incurred or incurred sooner if the program causes authorized STO bond funds to be expended or to be expended more quickly than they otherwise would have been.

As of March 1, 2026, there is an unallocated bond balance of approximately \$63 million for the program. The bill does not change overall STO bond authorization levels.

**Sections 9 - 19:** (1) allow school districts to contract with platform carriers for student transportation in FY 27 for students who are

homeless or in foster care, and in FY 28 and beyond, for all students; and (2) place requirements on platform carriers, platform vehicles and drivers, and districts to ensure certain safety and other standards for student transportation are met.

This results in potential savings to school districts beginning in FY 27 by allowing greater flexibility related to contracting services. The savings to a district are dependent on the terms of any contract with a platform carrier and the terms of a contract that the district would have entered in the absence of the bill. Savings may be greater in FY 28 and beyond, when platform contracts can expand to cover more students' transportation.

These sections also result in potential minimal revenue gain to the Department of Motor Vehicles by requiring platform vehicles to undergo annual safety inspections, which are subject to a \$20 fee.

The remaining sections of the bill are technical, conform to current practices, or otherwise do not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation or as otherwise described.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 413****AN ACT REVISING VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES.**

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*Eliminates the infraction penalty for children under age 16 who do not wear a helmet on an e-bike, conforming to the existing law requiring children to wear helmets on bicycles and similar forms of transportation*

[§§ 9-21 — STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BY PLATFORM CARRIERS](#)

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**SUMMARY**

This law makes various changes to motor vehicle and transportation laws. A section-by-section analysis follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except that (1) the platform carrier provisions are effective July 1, 2026, and (2) the Q endorsement provision is effective January 1, 2027.

**§§ 1 & 2 — ACCESSIBLE PARKING PLACARDS**

*Requires DMV to redesign placards so the expiration date is prominent; specifies that the Accessible Parking Advisory Council's duty to make educational materials includes videos or online trainings; and requires that people who certify eligibility for placards select which criterion an applicant meets*

The bill modifies laws on accessible parking application forms, placard design, and the duties of the Accessible Parking Advisory Council.

***Placard Design***

The bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in consultation with the Accessible Parking Advisory Council, to redesign the accessible parking windshield placard so the placard's expiration date is in bold font, prominent, and clearly visible from outside the vehicle. Starting January 1, 2027, DMV must only issue placards in the redesigned format, but previously issued placards that are otherwise valid remain so until they expire.

***Advisory Council Duties***

Under current law, the Accessible Parking Advisory Council must make educational materials for medical professionals, law enforcement officers, and the general public about proper placard issuance and use. The bill specifies that these materials include videos or online trainings.

***Placard Application Form***

By law, applicants for accessible parking placards must submit DMV's application form, which generally must be signed by a qualified person (such as a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse) to certify that the applicant meets the definition of a

person with a disability that limits his or her ability to walk and, consequently, is eligible for a placard. Anyone who signs the form does so under penalty of false statement.

In practice, the application form lists the criteria contained in this definition and requires the person certifying the applicant's eligibility to sign under the criteria. The bill (1) codifies the requirement that the form list each eligibility criterion in this definition and (2) requires the form to also instruct the person certifying eligibility to initial which criterion the applicant meets. It also requires the form to contain a QR (quick response) code or something similar that allows health professionals and others who use it to access educational materials the advisory council develops on eligibility requirements.

As under existing law, certifications by health care professionals must be based on their professional opinion after completing a medically reasonable assessment of the applicant's medical history and current condition in the context of a bonafide health care professional-patient relationship.

***Background—Disability that Limits or Impairs Ability to Walk***

By law, a person has a disability that limits or impairs ability to walk if the person:

1. cannot walk 200 feet without resting;
2. cannot walk without (a) the use of a cane, brace, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device or (b) help from another person;
3. is restricted by lung disease so that his or her forced respiratory volume or arterial oxygen tension is below certain limits;
4. uses portable oxygen;
5. has a heart condition that creates functional limitations falling within the American Heart Association's Class III or IV severity

classification; or

6. is “severely limited” in walking ability due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition (23 CFR 1235.2).

### § 3 — RECIPROCITY FOR Q ENDORSEMENT

*Requires DMV to waive the skills test requirement for a Q endorsement to operate a fire apparatus for people that have an out-of-state credential that is substantially equivalent, as determined by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control*

By law, a Q license endorsement indicates that a person is qualified to operate fire apparatus. To get an endorsement, a person generally must pass a skills test, but the test is waived for people with qualifying military training and experience.

The bill requires DMV to waive the skills test requirement and issue a Q endorsement to out-of-state license holders that have a substantially equivalent credential from that state. The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control determines which states’ credentials have standards that meet or exceed Connecticut’s standards and so qualify for reciprocity.

### § 4 — E-SCOOTER WEIGHT LIMIT

*Increases current law’s e-scooter weight limit from 100 pounds to 110 pounds*

The bill increases current law’s weight limit for “electric scooters” (e-scooters) from 100 pounds to 110 pounds. In addition to meeting the weight limit, existing law defines an e-scooter as a device that (1) has two or three wheels and handlebars, (2) is designed to be ridden in an upright or seated position, (3) is powered by an electric motor and human power, and (4) has a maximum speed of up to 20 mph, with or without human propulsion on a paved level surface. E-bikes and one-wheeled vehicles are not considered e-scooters.

Existing law excludes e-bikes and e-scooters from the definition of a motor-driven cycle. (E-bikes and e-scooters are regulated more similarly to bicycles.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

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**§ 5 — VEHICLE RENTALS**

*Adds open air all-terrain, sport, and convertible to the list of vehicle categories for which a car rental company may require a customer to provide a credit card before renting*

Existing law generally prohibits short-term car rental companies from requiring customers to show proof of a credit card as a condition for renting a vehicle. However, it allows them to require this proof for (1) passenger motor vehicles ACRISS (formerly, the Association of Car Rental Industry System Standards) or a successor organization classify as full-size elite, premium, premium elite, luxury, luxury elite, oversize, or special or (2) sport utility vehicles designed to transport six or more people.

The bill additionally allows these car rental companies to require proof of a credit card to rent vehicles ACRISS classifies as open air all-terrain, sport, or convertible.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**§ 6 — ELECTRONIC ISSUANCE LICENSEES**

*Allows electronic issuance licensees to charge an additional fee for the optional service of document preparation and consultation services for corrections to title certificates and lien recordings; requires licensees that have a business website to prominently disclose certain information on the website, including the availability of these optional services and the associated fees.*

Existing law sets a regulatory framework for people and entities that are engaged in the business of electronically filing, on behalf of their customers, registration or title applications with DMV (registration and title companies). Among other things, it (1) generally prohibits registration and title companies from filing registration and title applications electronically without an “electronic issuance license” and (2) caps the fee that electronic issuance licensees may charge their customers at \$25 for each registration or title application.

The bill allows electronic issuance licensees to charge an additional fee that exceeds the \$25 cap for the optional service of document preparation and consultation services for corrections to title certificates and lien recordings if:

1. before performing the optional service, the licensee separately discloses the service and the customer agrees to it, in writing; and
2. the licensee does not require the customer to buy the optional service as a condition of electronically filing the customer's registration or title application with DMV.

The bill also requires electronic issuance licensees that have a business website to prominently disclose on the website (1) a statement that the licensee is not affiliated with DMV, (2) a statement that a person may complete transactions on DMV's website at no additional charge, and (3) the availability of the optional services described above and the associated fees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

## **§ 7 — LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

*Expands the definition of "eligible bridges" that may receive grants under the state's Local Bridge Program*

The Local Bridge program gives grants to municipalities to remove, replace, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or improve local bridges. By law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner makes a priority list of eligible bridges, based on their physical condition, and awards grants to municipalities in the order of priority (CGS § 13a-175s).

The bill expands the program's definition of "eligible bridge" to also include structures (1) with a clear span more than six feet wide that include a permanent overhead structure enclosing a public right-of-way and (2) that the commissioner determines need to be removed, replaced, reconstructed, rehabilitated, or improved due to their physical condition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

## **§ 8 — E-BIKE HELMET REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN**

*Eliminates the infraction penalty for children under age 16 who do not wear a helmet on an e-bike, conforming to the existing law requiring children to wear helmets on bicycles and similar forms of transportation*

Current law on e-bikes specifically prohibits anyone from riding an e-bike (including as a passenger) without wearing a helmet meeting certain specifications and subjects violators to an infraction penalty. Separately, existing law, unchanged by the bill, prohibits children age 17 or younger from riding an e-bike (or bicycles, non-motorized scooters, skateboards, e-scooters, or roller or in-line skates) on the traveled portion of any road without a helmet meeting these specifications. This law specifies that failing to do so is not (1) a violation or offense or (2) considered to be contributory negligence on the parent’s or child’s part or admissible in any civil action. However, it allows a law enforcement officer to issue a verbal warning to the parent or guardian of a child that does not wear a helmet as required.

The bill aligns these two provisions of law by specifying that (1) the law’s infraction penalty only applies to people age 16 or older who ride an e-bike (including as a passenger) without a helmet and (2) failing to comply with existing law’s prohibition on children under age 16 riding a class 3 e-bike (see *Background – E-bike Classes*), or sitting on one as a passenger without a helmet, does not constitute a violation or offense. Relatedly, it (1) applies the provisions described above on contributory negligence and civil actions to a child’s failure to wear a helmet as a class 3 e-bike passenger and (2) allows a law enforcement officer to issue a verbal warning to the parent or guardian of a child that does not comply with the class 3 e-bike provisions described above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**Background — E-bike Classes**

By law, an e-bike is a bicycle that (1) has operable foot pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts and (2) qualifies as a class 1, class 2, or class 3 bicycle (see table below).

**E-Bike Classes**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Motor Engagement</b>	<b>Motor Disengagement</b>	<b>Top Speed</b>
Class 1	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	20 mph

<b>Class</b>	<b>Motor Engagement</b>	<b>Motor Disengagement</b>	<b>Top Speed</b>
Class 2	While the rider pedals or with a throttle (they may be powered exclusively by the motor)	When the brakes are applied or when it hits the top speed	20 mph
Class 3	Only while the rider uses the foot pedals	When the rider stops pedaling or when it hits the top speed	28 mph

Source: CGS § 14-1

**§§ 9-21 — STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BY PLATFORM CARRIERS**

The bill generally allows school boards to contract with companies (“platform carriers”) that use a digital network to arrange student transportation provided by drivers (“platform drivers”) who subcontract with the platform carrier to transport students in a passenger motor vehicle (“platform vehicles”) the platform driver owns or leases. However, for the 2026-27 school year, platform carriers may only arrange transport for homeless children and youth (which school boards must do under the federal McKinney Vento Act) and children in foster care.

It generally incorporates these carriers, vehicles, and drivers into existing laws on student transportation vehicles (STVs) and drivers and school transportation safety requirements, but makes several exceptions explained further below.

**Regulation of Platform Carriers**

The bill generally expands the definition of “carrier” under the school transportation laws to include platform carriers who are under contract with a school board to provide student transportation with platform drivers. Under the bill, a “platform carrier” is a company that arranges student transportation for school or school activities using an online-enabled application, website, or system (“digital network”) and passenger motor vehicles meeting certain criteria (platform vehicles, see below).

In doing so, the bill applies carriers’ existing statutory and regulatory

responsibilities to platform carriers. These include requirements to (1) review DMV's reports of suspended school transportation endorsement holders, (2) conduct random drug testing of drivers, (3) inspect and maintain vehicles, (4) ensure drivers meet all training requirements, and (5) appoint a safety coordinator to ensure compliance with carrier responsibilities. Under current law, carriers have these responsibilities with respect to their employees; the bill generally extends them to include carriers' subcontractors.

### ***Regulation of Platform Drivers***

By law, STV drivers must hold a "V" endorsement on their driver's license. To get an endorsement, drivers must, among other things, (1) undergo a criminal records check, state child abuse and neglect registry check and a driving history check; (2) meet medical qualifications; and (3) complete pre-service and in-service training requirements. By incorporating platform vehicles into the STV definition, the bill applies these requirements to platform drivers.

### ***Regulation of Platform Vehicles***

Under existing law, STVs have to be registered, inspected, insured, and meet signage and other safety requirements. The bill generally extends these requirements to platform vehicles, but with a few exceptions.

***Registration, Inspection, and Insurance.*** Currently, a vehicle used as an STV must get an STV registration. The law requires STV registrations to be renewed annually, and safety inspections are required before initial registration and renewal. The bill excludes platform vehicles from the STV registration requirement but establishes a separate annual inspection requirement for platform vehicles.

The bill also explicitly subjects platform vehicles to the same insurance requirements applicable to STVs but requires that the platform carrier hold the insurance rather than the driver. Existing law prohibits DMV from registering any STV (including a platform vehicle) if the vehicle does not meet insurance requirements. (It is unclear how

DMV will comply with this prohibition. Because platform vehicles will be registered as passenger motor vehicles, DMV is unlikely to know that the vehicle is an STV subject to these requirements and restrictions.)

Unlike with vehicles registered as STVs, these requirements are not enforced through the registration process. Instead, the bill requires school boards to confirm that each platform vehicle used under contract with them meets the inspection and insurance requirements. Before transportation under the contract begins, school boards must (1) get documentation showing the carrier’s compliance and maintain it for the contract’s term and (2) require platform carriers to notify the board promptly if any platform vehicle no longer meets these requirements.

**Vehicle Markings and Signage.** Current law requires STVs to display signs that say “Carrying School Children” and are either portable signs mounted on the roof or decal or painted signs. The bill requires platform vehicles to have these signs but allows them to be magnetic or otherwise temporarily attached to the vehicle or displayed in another DMV-approved method.

The bill also excludes platform vehicles from provisions requiring STVs to have the STV operator’s name, phone number, and STV fleet number painted on the vehicle’s side and rear.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 1 (03/16/2026)