



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 234**

February Session, 2026



**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2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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 14-45a<sub>2</sub> 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.

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| 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.*