
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 186

AN ACT ALLOWING PERSONS SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO OPERATE RIDES AT AMUSEMENT PARKS.

SUMMARY

This bill lowers the minimum age for amusement park ride or device operators from 18 to 16, which is currently set in regulation. The bill excludes from this lowered age requirement operators at “carnivals,” which the bill defines as transient enterprises that offer portable mechanical amusement rides or devices for public amusement and entertainment, but not those that lease inflatable devices for private residential use.

Under the bill, if an operator is under age 18, he or she must work in an area that is supervised by someone who is (1) at least age 18 and (2) trained in normal operating and emergency procedures.

Under the bill, a “ride or device operator” is someone in charge of a mechanical amusement ride or device who operates it and has direct control of (1) starting or stopping it or (2) its speed. Under existing regulations, operators must be (1) properly trained, familiar with, and adequately supervised to ensure safe operation and (2) trained in normal and emergency shut-down procedures (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 29-136-7a).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 3 (03/23/2021)