



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 314

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 186

Senate, April 7, 2021

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. MARONEY of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-133 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 When used in sections 29-134 to [29-142] 29-143b, inclusive, as
4 amended by this act:

5 (1) "Amusement" means any circus or carnival presented in the open,
6 including a place where one or more rides or devices capable of
7 accommodating one or more passengers and normally requiring the
8 supervision or services of [an] a ride or device operator are presented
9 for amusement or entertainment purposes, and any circus, carnival or
10 other portable show or exhibition presented under any single tent, air-
11 supported plastic or fabric or other portable shelter, and involving the
12 assembly of one hundred or more persons. "Amusement" does not
13 include an inflatable device leased for private residential use;

14 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
15 Protection;

16 (3) "Insurance Commissioner" means the state Insurance
17 Commissioner;

18 (4) "Grandstand" means any structure, either with or without a roof,
19 providing seating for one hundred or more persons;

20 (5) "Owner" means the proprietor, operator, agent or possessor of
21 such amusement;

22 (6) "Tent" means any structure with or without side panels having
23 wood or metal supports and using any kind of a textile or similar
24 material for coverage, and having a capacity sufficient to shelter one
25 hundred or more persons or covering a ground area of more than one
26 thousand two hundred square feet; [.]

27 (7) "Ride or device operator" means the person in charge of a
28 mechanical amusement ride or device who causes such ride or device to
29 operate and has direct control of the starting, stopping or speed of a
30 mechanical amusement ride or device; and

31 (8) "Carnival" means a transient enterprise that offers portable
32 mechanical amusement rides or devices for public amusement and
33 entertainment purposes, but excluding any enterprise that offers the
34 lease of inflatable devices for private residential use.

35 Sec. 2. Section 29-143b of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

37 (a) Nothing in section 29-133, as amended by this act, or 29-136 shall
38 be construed to preclude the hiring of a ride or device operator under
39 the age of eighteen to operate amusement rides and devices at a location
40 other than a carnival, provided (1) any such amusement ride or device
41 operator is at least sixteen years of age, and (2) an adult of at least
42 eighteen years of age who is trained in normal operating and emergency
43 procedures supervises the area containing such amusement rides and

44 devices.

45 (b) Nothing in section 29-133, as amended by this act, or 29-136 shall
46 be construed to preclude the hiring of certified lifeguards under the age
47 of eighteen to oversee aquatic rides and devices such as pools, water
48 slides, lazy rivers, or interactive aquatic play devices, provided an adult
49 of at least eighteen years of age who is trained in normal operating and
50 emergency procedures supervises the area containing such aquatic rides
51 or devices.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	29-133
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	29-143b

GL *Joint Favorable*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill lowers the minimum age for amusement park ride or device operators resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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)