



Going Places Model Legislation

§ (1) Eliminating fees to obtain driver's license:

- (a) All fees associated with obtaining a driver's license or learner's permit, a state identification, and taking a driver's education class should be waived by the state for individuals who:
- i. are in placement and care responsibility of the child welfare agency [or cite to definition of foster care], or in an independent living program;
 - ii. are of legal age to obtain a driver's license or permit

§ (2) Authorization to obtain permit/license:

- (a) If the individual applying for a license or permit is under the age of 18 and are in placement and care responsibility of the child welfare agency, the license or permit may be signed by:
- i. The applicant's biological parent, legal guardian, grandparent, adult sibling, aunt or uncle if parental rights have not been terminated;
 - ii. The foster parent with whom the applicant resides;
 - iii. Caregiver over the age of 21;
 - iv. Designated employee of child-caring institution; or
 - v. The applicant, if approved by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- (b) An individual who signs the license or permit under §(2)(a) does not assume any obligation or become liable for any damages caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the minor by reason of having signed the application.

§ (4) Capacity for youth in foster care to contract for a vehicle and car insurance:

- (a) A minor who
- i. is at least 16 years of age as of the minor's nearest birthday
 - ii. is in custody of the state [or cite to definition of foster care], residing with kin, in a guardianship arrangement, or a youth participating in the independent living program; and
 - iii. has completed a driver's education program

may contract for purchase of a motor vehicle and motor vehicle liability insurance and exercise every right, privilege, and benefit provided by a policy of motor vehicle insurance.

§ (5) Planning/Assistance for Youth and Caregivers

- (a) Case planning for minors age 14 or older in state custody shall include a plan for assuring that the child receives assistance, knowledge, and skills related to preparing to drive, including opportunity for practice and driving hours and information concerning obtaining a driver's license and automotive insurance.
- (b) Foster parent/caregiver training shall include knowledge and skills related to preparing the child to drive, including assuring opportunity for practice driving hours and information concerning obtaining a driver's license and automotive insurance.

§ (6) Allocating funds for driving expenses:

- (a) The Department of Children and Families shall establish a program to pay for the cost of driver education, licensure and other costs incidental to licensure, and motor vehicle insurance for children in foster care or formerly in foster care until age 26, who have successfully completed a driver's education program.
- (b) The Department of Transportation shall waive all fees related to the licensure of children in foster care or formerly in foster care until the age of 26.

§ (7) Data Collection

- (a) The Department of Children and Families should conduct an annual survey to collect data on how many youth in care, or formerly in care and are between the ages of 15-26:
 - i. Are eligible for a driver's license;
 - ii. Completed a driver's education course;
 - iii. Have completed driver's training hours;
 - iv. Have obtained a learner's permit;
 - v. Have obtained a driver's license or state identification card;
 - vi. Have access to a car; and
 - vii. Have car insurance.

Findings from the survey will be reported to the legislature annually for budgetary and performance outcome evaluation.