



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6672**

*January Session, 2003*

**AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHWAY SAFETY.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-111b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not suspend or  
4 revoke an operator's license or right to operate a motor vehicle in this  
5 state for a first [, second or third] violation of section 14-219, unless the  
6 court wherein the conviction was rendered recommends such  
7 suspension or revocation for a period not to exceed thirty days. The  
8 court shall notify said commissioner of such recommendation and said  
9 commissioner shall make such suspension or revocation effective.

10 (b) Whenever any person is convicted of a [fourth] second or  
11 subsequent violation of [said] section 14-219, said commissioner shall,  
12 without hearing, suspend or revoke the operator's license or right to  
13 operate a motor vehicle in this state for a period not to exceed thirty  
14 days for a [fourth] second violation, sixty days for a [fifth] third  
15 violation and six months for each subsequent violation.

16 (c) For the purposes of this section, a [second or subsequent  
17 violation shall be defined as provided in section 14-1, and a fourth]  
18 "second or subsequent" violation means an offense committed not  
19 more than two years after the date of an arrest which resulted in a

20 previous conviction for a violation of the same statutory provision, and  
21 a ~~third~~ or subsequent violation means [four] ~~three~~ or more arrests  
22 within any two-year period for violation of any provision of section 14-  
23 219 which result in conviction.

24       Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Transportation  
25 shall, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and the  
26 Department of Motor Vehicles, develop a plan to: (1) Open weigh  
27 stations a sufficient number of hours to weigh and inspect vehicles  
28 traveling on public highways to ensure that vehicles are in compliance  
29 with section 14-267a of the general statutes; and (2) establish regularly  
30 scheduled and enforced hours of operation for weigh stations. In  
31 developing the plan, the commissioner shall consider the provisions of  
32 sections 14-270a to 14-270d, inclusive, of the general statutes. Not later  
33 than September 1, 2003, the commissioner shall submit the plan, in  
34 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
35 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
36 cognizance of matters relating to transportation.

37       Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Chief Court Administrator, in  
38 consultation with the Chief State's Attorney, the Chief Public Defender  
39 and the Commissioner of Public Safety, or their designees, shall  
40 conduct a study on means for achieving more effective prosecutions of  
41 motor vehicle moving violations, as defined in subsection (a) of section  
42 14-111g of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, a review  
43 of: (1) The procedures of state and local police departments for  
44 identifying and charging violators; (2) the policies of the office of the  
45 Chief State's Attorney for charging and prosecuting offenders; (3) the  
46 procedures of courts for processing cases involving moving violations  
47 in a timely manner; and (4) the feasibility of establishing traffic courts.

48       (b) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Chief Court Administrator  
49 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
50 general statutes, the findings and recommendations of the study,  
51 which shall include an analysis of the likelihood of traffic courts  
52 deterring motor vehicle moving violations, and recommendations for

53 policies and procedures to implement the findings and  
54 recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the General  
55 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation and  
56 the judiciary.

57       Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Transportation,  
58 in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and the  
59 Department of Motor Vehicles, shall develop a plan to install photo  
60 radar devices on all public highways in the state to identify speed limit  
61 violators. The plan shall include notification of violators by mail and  
62 shall provide for payment of fines for infractions by mail. Not later  
63 than September 1, 2003, the commissioner shall submit a report, in  
64 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
65 on the plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
66 having cognizance of matters relating to transportation.

67       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than September 1,  
68 2003, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Transportation  
69 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
70 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the  
71 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
72 transportation that shall contain the following: (1) The Suggested List  
73 of Surveillance Study Sites compiled by the Department of  
74 Transportation for the year in which the report is submitted; (2) the  
75 department's evaluation of the need for safety improvements to the  
76 intersections, interchanges and lengths of roadways listed on the  
77 Suggested List of Surveillance Study Sites; and (3) the commissioner's  
78 recommendations for (A) necessary safety improvements to such  
79 intersections, interchanges and roadways, and (B) policies and  
80 procedures to implement such safety improvements. The report shall  
81 include any recommendations for closing any exit or entrance ramps  
82 on interstate highways that the commissioner deems unsafe.

83       Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 13b-26 of the general statutes is  
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
85 *October 1, 2003*):

86 (a) The commissioner shall make such alterations in the state  
87 highway system as he may from time to time deem necessary and  
88 desirable to fulfill the purposes of this chapter and title 13a. In making  
89 any such alteration he shall consider the best interest of the state,  
90 taking into consideration relevant factors including the following:  
91 Traffic flow, origin and destination of traffic, integration and  
92 circulation of traffic, continuity of routes, alternate available routes and  
93 changes in traffic patterns. The relative weight to be given to any factor  
94 shall be determined by the commissioner. All alterations in said  
95 highway system shall be consistent with the comprehensive long-  
96 range master transportation plan and shall, to the extent possible, be  
97 planned and made so that no area of the state is adversely affected at  
98 any time by multiple alterations being made in that area. Each  
99 biennium the commissioner shall notify all members of the General  
100 Assembly of the availability of the plan. A member requesting a plan  
101 shall be sent a written copy or electronic storage media of the plan by  
102 the commissioner.

103 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Transportation  
104 shall, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and the  
105 Department of Motor Vehicles, develop a plan to expand the present  
106 use of the following highway safety measures: (1) Vision barriers to  
107 reduce (A) glare from motor vehicle head lamps, and (B) traffic  
108 congestion due to motor vehicle operator onlooking during highway  
109 incidents; (2) the Connecticut Highway Assistance Motorist Patrol,  
110 including expansion of the program to limited access highways; (3)  
111 raised strips known as "rumble strips" along the outer edge of  
112 highways to alert motor vehicle operators who have driven off the  
113 highway and the addition of centerline rumble strips. Not later than  
114 September 1, 2003, the commissioner shall submit the plan, in  
115 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
116 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
117 cognizance of matters relating to transportation.

118 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of Transportation  
119 and Public Safety shall establish a procedure, to commence not later

120 than July 1, 2003, to consult regularly with commercial shippers and  
 121 receivers of goods, truck operators and employers to encourage such  
 122 shippers and receivers, truck operators and employers to establish  
 123 flexible driving and work hours to reduce traffic on congested  
 124 highways during certain hours. Not later than September 1, 2003, the  
 125 commissioners shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions  
 126 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, about the procedure, including  
 127 the results of consultations that have occurred as of the date of the  
 128 report, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
 129 cognizance of matters relating to transportation. The procedure shall  
 130 become effective no later than January 1, 2004.

131       Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than September 1, 2003, the  
 132 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report, in accordance  
 133 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
 134 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 135 matters relating to transportation that describes in detail the existing  
 136 policy of the Department of Transportation concerning highway  
 137 lighting. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the  
 138 department's policy for: (1) Selection of highways or segments of  
 139 highways for lighting; (2) positioning of lights on highways; and (3)  
 140 determining when lights are illuminated.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>

**TRA**

**Joint Favorable Subst. C/R**

**JUD**