



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 2

January Session, 2005

Senate Bill No. 937

Senate, February 18, 2005

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. CIOTTO of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of sections 14-36a and 14-44d of the general statutes,
3 effective January 1, 2005, each motor vehicle operator's license or
4 commercial driver's license, that is otherwise valid, shall remain valid,
5 according to its terms, and shall authorize each license holder to
6 operate motor vehicles in accordance with the classification,
7 endorsements or restrictions that appear on the license under the
8 provisions of sections 14-36a and 14-44d of the general statutes, in
9 effect before January 1, 2005. Each operator's license or commercial
10 driver's license, issued or renewed by the Commissioner of Motor
11 Vehicles on and after January 1, 2005, may be issued or renewed in
12 accordance with the provisions of sections 14-36a and 14-44d of the
13 general statutes, in effect before January 1, 2005. On and after July 1,
14 2005, each operator's license or commercial driver's license issued or

15 renewed by the commissioner shall contain a designation of the
16 classification of the license, and of the endorsements and restrictions to
17 the license, if any, for which the applicant has qualified, as provided in
18 sections 14-36a and 14-44d of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Cost Avoidance	See Below	See Below

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill is anticipated to preclude a cost to the Department of Motor Vehicles of \$4.5 million in FY 06 as a result of delaying the implementation of drivers' license card changes enacted by PA 04-217.

In order to comply with the original provisions contained in PA 04-217 the DMV would have to reissue approximately 2 million valid licenses. The cost to reissue licenses would be approximately \$4.3 million to create and mail the new license cards and \$0.2 million in administrative costs associated with public outreach and processing expenses.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 937

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT.**SUMMARY:**

In 2004, the legislature significantly revised the system of license classes, endorsements, and restrictions for both drivers' and commercial drivers' licenses the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues. The changes became effective on January 1, 2005. This bill establishes a transition period for DMV to implement the new requirements. During the transition period:

1. any operator's license or commercial driver's license DMV issued before January 1, 2005 and that is otherwise valid remains so based on the classification, endorsements, or restrictions that were in effect before January 1, 2005;
2. from January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005, DMV may issue or renew licenses with the classification, endorsement, or restriction designations in effect before January 1, 2005 rather than those that became effective on January 1, 2005; and
3. any license DMV issues or renews after June 30, 2005 must contain the classification, endorsements, and restrictions that became effective on January 1, 2005.

In effect, the bill eliminates the need for the DMV to recall valid licenses that are already in operators' possession in order to reissue them with the new designations and gives the DMV, at its discretion, until July 1, 2005 before it must begin issuing licenses with the new classifications, endorsements, and restrictions the law requires.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Revised License Classifications, Endorsements, and Restrictions

PA 04-217 changed the way Connecticut classifies its motor vehicle operators' licenses as well as the types of endorsements or restrictions that are coded onto the license to show special circumstances that apply to a particular operator. These include authority to operate certain types of special vehicles like tanker trucks, twin trailers, buses, school buses, and vehicles carrying hazardous materials. The law increased the number of license classifications from two to four, modified some of the endorsements and restrictions, and created several new ones. These changes have been in effect since January 1, 2005.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 27 Nay 0