



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 525

LCO No. 2290

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Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING TAXICAB REGISTRATION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of
2 Transportation shall have staff available at least twenty-four hours per
3 week to process taxicab registrations.

4 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Motor
5 Vehicles shall immediately issue a temporary public service license
6 with a taxicab endorsement to any suitable applicant who has proof of
7 no criminal record. The temporary public service license with a taxi
8 cab endorsement shall remain in effect until the issuance or denial of a
9 permanent license.

10 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) Any holder of a public
11 service license with a taxicab endorsement who violates any provision
12 of chapter 244a of the general statutes or any order or regulation
13 adopted or established under any such provision shall be fined not
14 more than one thousand dollars and the license may be suspended or
15 revoked. Any such violations cited shall be attached to the operator's
16 driver history.

17 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 14-100a of the 2006 supplement to
18 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
19 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

20 (d) (1) Any person who transports a child six years of age and under
21 or weighing less than sixty pounds, in a motor vehicle on the highways
22 of this state shall provide and require the child to use a child restraint
23 system approved pursuant to regulations adopted by the Department
24 of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. Any
25 person who transports a child seven years of age or older and
26 weighing sixty or more pounds, in a motor vehicle on the highways of
27 this state shall either provide and require the child to use an approved
28 child restraint system or require the child to use a seat safety belt. As
29 used in this subsection, "motor vehicle" does not mean a bus having a
30 tonnage rating of one ton or more or a taxicab, as defined in section
31 13b-95. Failure to use a child restraint system shall not be considered
32 as contributory negligence nor shall such failure be admissible
33 evidence in any civil action.

34 (2) Any person who transports a child under one year of age or
35 weighing less than twenty pounds in a motor vehicle on the highways
36 of this state shall provide and require the child to ride rear-facing in a
37 child restraint system approved pursuant to regulations that the
38 Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt in accordance with the
39 provisions of chapter 54.

40 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
41 subsection, any person who transports a child four years of age or
42 older in a student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212,
43 as amended, on the highways of this state shall either provide and
44 require the child to use an approved child restraint system or require
45 the child to use a seat safety belt. Any person who transports a child
46 under four years of age weighing less than forty pounds in a student
47 transportation vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide and
48 require the child to use a child restraint system approved pursuant to

49 regulations adopted by the Department of Motor Vehicles in
50 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

51 (4) No person shall restrain a child in a booster seat unless the motor
52 vehicle is equipped with a safety seat belt that includes a shoulder belt
53 and otherwise meets the requirement of subsection (b) of this section.

54 (5) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1), (2),
55 (3) or (4) of this subsection shall, for a first violation, have committed
56 an infraction; for a second violation, be fined not more than one
57 hundred ninety-nine dollars; and, for a third or subsequent violation,
58 be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The commissioner shall require
59 any person who has committed a first or second violation of the
60 provisions of this subsection to attend a child car seat safety course
61 offered or approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The
62 commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing,
63 suspend for a period of not more than two months the motor vehicle
64 operator's license of any person who fails to attend or successfully
65 complete the course.

66 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of
67 section 13b-97 of the general statutes and any regulations issued
68 thereto, no new taxicab certificates shall be issued during the period
69 ending one year after the effective date of this section while a task
70 force studies the regulation of the taxicab industry.

71 (b) There is established a task force to study the state's taxi industry.
72 Such study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of (1)
73 the current taxicab regulatory scheme, (2) the standard for the issuance
74 of taxicab certificates, (3) the procedure for licensing taxicab operators,
75 (4) the possible repetition of functions currently existing in taxicab
76 oversight, (5) procedures surrounding public hearings and the need
77 and necessity of such hearings, and (6) any and all other matters that
78 may come to the task force's attention.

79 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

80 (1) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's
81 designee;

82 (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or the commissioner's
83 designee;

84 (3) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
85 secretary's designee;

86 (4) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the
87 commissioner's designee;

88 (5) Two representatives of the Connecticut Taxicab Association; and

89 (6) The cochairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
90 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
91 relating to transportation, or their designees.

92 (d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
93 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
94 of the General Assembly.

95 (e) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
96 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
97 filled by the appointing authority.

98 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
99 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
100 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
101 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no
102 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

103 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
104 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
105 transportation shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

106 (h) Not later than January 1, 2007, the task force shall submit a
107 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing

108 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
109 relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of section
110 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
111 that it submits such report or January 1, 2007, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	14-100a(d)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To review and update taxicab registration regulations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]