



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 256

February Session, 2008

Senate Bill No. 319

Senate, March 31, 2008

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. MCDONALD of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING BLOCKING THE BOX.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) No operator of a
2 motor vehicle shall proceed into an intersection, except when making a
3 turn, unless there is sufficient space on the opposite side of the
4 intersection to accommodate such motor vehicle without obstructing
5 the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding the
6 indication of a traffic control signal that would permit such operator to
7 proceed.

8 (b) Violation of this section shall be an infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
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JUD 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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Less than 37,500	Less than 50,000
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Municipal Police Departments	None	None	None

Explanation

The bill establishes a new infraction; the total amount payable would be between \$74 and \$136.¹ Since the bill does not include this new fine among fines, fees, and surcharges² that must be deposited into the Special Transportation Fund³, any revenues generated under the bill would be deposited into the General Fund. Annual revenues are anticipated to be less than \$50,000.

Police enforcement could be accommodated within the normal course of police officers’ duties and at no increased cost.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing revenue gain identified above would remain relatively stable into the future since fine amounts are set by

¹ In accordance with CGS 51-164m, the judges of the Superior Court establish and maintain a schedule of fines to be paid for the violation of the sections of the general statutes deemed to be infractions. No such fine may be less than \$35 or more than \$90. In addition to this “base” fine, a cost of \$35 (pursuant to CGS 54-143a) and a fee of between \$4 and \$11 (pursuant to CGS 51-56a(c)) would be included.

² CGS 13b-59(g)

³ In accordance with CGS 13b-59(d) and 13b-61(b)(4).

statute.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 319*****AN ACT PROHIBITING BLOCKING THE BOX.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes it an infraction for a motor vehicle to proceed into an intersection when there is insufficient space on the opposite side of the intersection for the vehicle so that it does not obstruct the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians. This applies even if the traffic light would permit the motor vehicle to proceed. But it does not apply to proceeding into an intersection to make a turn.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

BACKGROUND***Infractions***

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the amount of the fine. There may be other added charges depending upon the type of infraction. For example, certain motor vehicle infractions trigger a Transportation Fund surcharge of 50% of the fine. With the various additional charges the total amount due can be over \$300 but often is less than \$100.

An infraction is not a crime; thus violators do not have criminal records and can pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/12/2008)