



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 381

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 6652

House of Representatives, March 31, 2009

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. GUERRERA of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF VIDEO EQUIPMENT IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-105 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2009*):

4 (a) No television screen or other device of a similar nature [, except a
5 video display unit used for instrumentation purposes] shall be
6 installed or used in this state in any position or location in a motor
7 vehicle where [it] a moving image, other than text, may be visible to
8 [the driver] a person who is operating the vehicle and is properly
9 restrained by such person's seat belt or where it may in any other
10 manner interfere with the safe operation and control of the vehicle. The
11 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to screens or devices
12 [installed by the manufacturer of the motor vehicle] meeting one or
13 more of the following criteria: (1) A closed video monitor that is used
14 [only for] to assist the operator while backing, [or] parking,

15 maneuvering at a speed of not more than twelve miles per hour, or
 16 monitoring passengers seated rearward of the operator; (2) a video
 17 display unit or device that is capable of operation only when the
 18 vehicle is stationary and is automatically disabled whenever the
 19 wheels of the vehicle are in motion; [or] (3) a video display unit or
 20 device that is used to enhance or supplement the [driver's] operator's
 21 view of the [area immediately surrounding the vehicle to assist in low-
 22 speed maneuvering at not more than ten miles per hour around
 23 obstructions] roadway or to assist the operator in object detection; (4) a
 24 video display unit used for control or instrumentation purposes, to
 25 provide vehicle information, or to assist in the operation of navigation,
 26 related traffic, road and weather information functions; or (5) a video
 27 display unit or device that is installed in any emergency vehicle.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2009	14-105(a)

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Judicial Dept.	General Fund and Transportation Fund - Indeterminate Revenue Impact	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Any revenue gain or loss from citations issued under CGS 14-105(a) as a consequence of the bill’s various changes would be minimal. In FY 08, there were 17 fines imposed under this statute. The amount due per violation is \$93: of which, \$53 is payable to the Transportation Fund and \$40 is payable to the General Fund.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would remain constant into the future since fine amounts are set by statute.

Sources: Judicial Department Quarterly Criminal / Motor Vehicle System Reports; Mail-in Violations and Infractions Schedule, Chart A

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6652*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF VIDEO EQUIPMENT IN MOTOR VEHICLES.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill revises the law that prohibits a television screen or other similar device from being installed in a motor vehicle where it may be visible to the driver or interfere with the safe operation or control of the vehicle in any other way. Currently, devices meeting certain criteria that are installed by the motor vehicle manufacturer are exempt from this general prohibition.

The bill (1) revises some of these exceptions and adds others and (2) eliminates the restriction that they must be installed by a vehicle manufacturer, thus permitting aftermarket installation and use of devices that qualify.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

PROHIBITION AND EXCEPTIONS***General Prohibition***

Currently, a television screen or other similar device cannot be installed or used anywhere in a motor vehicle where it may be visible to the driver or interfere with the vehicle's safe operation or control in any way. The bill, instead, specifies (1) that such a device cannot display a moving image, other than text and (2) that, to be prohibited, the device's image must be visible to someone who is actually operating the vehicle and using a seat belt.

Exceptions to the Prohibition

Currently, a device that has been installed by the vehicle's manufacturer is exempt from the prohibition if it meets one or more of

the following: (1) it is a video display unit used for instrumentation purposes, (2) it is a closed video monitor used only for backing or parking, (3) it is a video display unit or device capable of operation only when the vehicle is stationary and is automatically disabled when the vehicle is in motion, or (4) the display or device is used to enhance or supplement the driver's view of the area immediately surrounding the vehicle to assist in low-speed maneuvering at not more than 10 miles per hour around obstructions.

The bill eliminates the requirement that excepted devices be installed only by the vehicle's manufacturer, thus permitting them to be installed in the aftermarket. It also revises the exceptions as follows:

1. a closed video monitor used to assist the driver while backing, parking, maneuvering at a speed up to 12 miles per hour, or to monitor passengers seated behind the driver;
2. a video display unit or device capable of operation only when the vehicle is stationary and is automatically disabled when the vehicle is in motion (unchanged by the bill);
3. a video display or device that is used to enhance or supplement the driver's view of the roadway or to assist the driver in object detection;
4. a video display unit used for control or instrumentation purposes (current law), to provide vehicle information, or to assist in the operation of navigation, traffic, road, and weather information functions; or
5. a video display or device installed in any emergency vehicle.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/16/2009)