



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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*Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 16, 2009*

Committee Bill No. 6160

AN ACT CONCERNING RECIPROCAL AND CONCURRENT SANCTIONS FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE OR A VESSEL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR OR ANY DRUG

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has reviewed this proposal and understands the Judiciary Committee's interest in linking the offenses of driving under the influence and boating under the influence.

While there are obvious public safety advantages to creating this tie, DMV would respectfully request more time to work with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on drafting language that would accomplish this goal without a fiscal impact on the agencies and, just as importantly, ensure there are no unintended consequences that would result from these revisions. For example, an individual who holds a *commercial driver's license* (CDL) could receive a lifetime suspension for operating a commercial motor vehicle if they had one driving under the influence offense on their driving history record and a similar boating offense occurred. Similarly, there would be impacts on the availability of work permits, as well as other programs that are driven by what is reflected on a person's driving history record.

For implementation purposes, retention periods for boating offenses on a driving history would need to be established- a DUI offense is currently on a driving history for ten years, or fifty-five years if the driver holds a CDL. Going forward, DMV would also request January effective dates to allow the Department time to develop a system that would interface with DEP.

DMV staff appreciates your interest in this issue, and is available to work with members of this Committee, as well as the Department of Environmental Protection, in studying and developing this concept.

Seat Belts Do Save Lives