

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
Written Testimony in Support of Raised Bill 1055
Submitted by Gloria Mills, Executive Director
to the
Transportation Committee
March 4, 2009

Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee, on behalf of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) I write in support of Raised Bill 1055, an act requiring vehicles to yield to public transit buses exiting bus stops. A Yield To Bus law in Connecticut will improve safety for transit operators, bus transit users and the driving public; and, it will reduce bus emissions, fuel use, and time spent trying to exit from a bus stop.

Although new to Connecticut, "Yield To Bus" laws have existed in many western states since the 1990's. The State of Oregon has had a "YIELD TO BUS" law since 1997. The law was enacted as a way to improve safety for transit bus operators and the driving public.

According to the Oregon law, a person commits the offense of failure to yield the right of way to a transit bus entering traffic if the person does not yield the right of way to a transit bus when:

- a) A yield sign as described in subsection (2) is displayed on the back of the transit bus;
- b) The person is operating a vehicle that is overtaking the transit bus from the rear of the transit bus; and
- c) The transit bus, after stopping to receive or discharge passengers, is signaling an intention to enter the traffic lane occupied by the person.

The offense, failure to yield the right of way to a transit bus entering traffic, is a Class D traffic infraction. The fine was \$75 at the time of enactment of the law.

The law does not relieve a driver of a transit bus from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the roadway. As used in the law the term *transit bus* means a commercial bus operated by a city, a mass transit district established under ORS 267.010 to 267.390 or a transportation district established under ORS 267.510 to 267.650.

Furthermore, unlike school bus law that requires all lanes of traffic to stop, a "Yield to Bus" law only requires the first lane of traffic in the same direction as the bus to stop.

The Connecticut Association for Community Transportation urges passage of Raised Bill 1055. A Yield To Bus law in Connecticut will mean improved safety for the driving public, bus transit users and bus transit operators; and better service with improved on-time performance for bus transit users. Thank you!

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