



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Testimony by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education  
Before the Transportation Committee  
1:00 p.m. – LOB Room 2C  
March 4, 2009**

**Senate Bill 1072 (Raised) An Act Authorizing the Reissuance or Renewal of a Commercial Driver's Instruction Permit**

The Department of Higher Education is very appreciative of the Transportation Committee's willingness to raise this bill. As you know, the Department of Higher Education is the oversight Agency regarding authorization of private occupational schools at the post-secondary level. In the Department's role of approving schools, to offer training, we often partner with sister agencies in confirming the curriculum meets the required licensing requirements, which is the case of commercial driving schools.

We have five schools approved to offer commercial driver training that enrolled 1,469 students in 2008. In 2008 we had a school close unexpectedly, so many students failed to complete their training. Many of these students who were unable to complete their training already had two permits within a two (2) year period. With the school's failure to complete training, the student was not able to obtain another permit or sit for their license. In trying to teach-out some of these students who had some training or near completion of their plan of study, it was discovered that in some cases, through no fault of their own, they were unable to pass the required test by the Department of Motor Vehicles. This bill would simply grant the Commissioner the ability to grant a waiver to continue their training. We also suggest that the bill be effective upon passage.

The Department of Higher Education supports this bill which will help students to successfully complete a commercial driver training program and become licensed.