



912 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Tel: 860.529.6855

Fax: 860.563.0616

ccia-info@ctconstruction.org

www.ctconstruction.org

**Senate Bill 155, An Act Requiring Training in Highway Work
Zone Safety
Transportation Committee
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Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. (CCIA) represents the commercial construction industry in Connecticut and is committed to working together to advance and promote a better quality of life for all citizens in the state. CCIA is comprised of more than 350 members, including contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and affiliated organizations representing many sectors of the construction industry. Members of CCIA's Safety Committee serve as directors of safety for large and small construction companies across the state, and have a tremendous amount of experience in highway, utility and road work zone safety.

Senate Bill 155, An Act Requiring Training in Highway Work Zone Safety, would require training on safe driving practices in highway work zones as part of driver education, and training of police officers in highway work zone safety. CCIA supports Senate Bill 155 and we respectfully request that the Transportation Committee approve the bill, with an amendment that we have proposed at the end of this testimony. We would like to thank Sen. DeFronzo, chairman of the committee, for introducing and sponsoring the bill, and the committee for voting to draft the bill.

The legislature and members of the Transportation Committee should be commended for approving a bill last year that creates two new offenses of endangerment of a highway worker and aggravated endangerment of a highway worker that apply when a driver commits certain violations in a highway work zone. CCIA supported that bill. Public Act 08-114, which became effective October 1, 2008, will protect people performing construction or maintenance activities and public safety personnel working in the zone. The new law also creates a Highway Work Zone Safety Advisory Council to recommend safety improvements in highway work zones. The bill was designed to send a message to drivers to understand that they need to pay attention in a work zone and, if they do not and violate the law, there will be severe consequences.

Senate Bill 155 is a logical extension of the new law. It requires new drivers to be educated on the responsibilities of a motor vehicle operator in a highway work zone, the risks associated with unsafe driving in a highway work zone to highway workers or state or local public safety officers, and the penalties for violating the new law. The bill also requires that basic or review police training programs conducted or administered by state or local police departments and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council provide a minimum of two hours of training on highway work zone safety. While it will require standard training in work zone safety for police departments, this will ensure that



Proposed Amendment

CCIA respectfully recommends that, if the committee approves Senate Bill 155, it amend the bill by striking lines 149 to 155, inclusive, of the bill and substituting the following in lieu thereof: “highway work zone; (4) safe traffic control practices set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, as published by the Federal Highway Administration under 23 CFR 655, Subpart F, as amended, such as the wearing of appropriate high-visibility safety apparel in a highway work zone and the proper location and position of law enforcement officers working in such zone; and (5) general guidelines, standards and applications set forth in said manual, including, but not limited”.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Matthew Hallisey at (860) 539-5189.