



State of Connecticut  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice

*Joint Committee on Transportation*  
*March 3, 2010*

The Division of Criminal Justice respectfully submits the following testimony concerning bills on the agenda for today's public hearing:

**S. B. No. 345 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE USE OF AUTOMATED TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL ENFORCEMENT DEVICES AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS.**

**S. B. No. 346 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED DETECTING CAMERAS ON HIGHWAYS.**

Both of these bills offer worthwhile concepts that require additional refinement before they would produce a system that would be an effective tool for law enforcement. The Division applauds the public safety intentions of these bills, but also must stress the need for language that will allow for effective enforcement. The Division believes this is an area ripe for consideration but still too short on specifics to provide for effective enforcement and the efficient use of limited law enforcement resources.

**H. B. No. 5384 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING OPEN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN MOTOR VEHICLES.**

The bill suffers from many of the same defects as cited in past years. For example, and of particular note, the so-called tailgating exemption provided in section 2 of the bill would allow an operator to drive with the open container for the entire length of the expansive parking lot at Rentschler Field as long it happened six hours before or two hours after a sporting event. Further, while such conduct would be legal at Rentschler since it is under control of the state, it would not be legal in the parking area of a private college or university. Such a distinction raises obvious legal problems. Barring major revisions, the bill should be rejected.

**H. B. No. 5385 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES IN MOTOR VEHICLES.**

This bill would only further complicate the already complicated state of DUI law in Connecticut. The Division would recommend an alternative to the approach proposed