



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES



Rowland State Government Center, 55 West Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702-2004
ct.gov/dmv

*Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
March 10, 2010*

Raised S.B. 406 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S RETRAINING PROGRAM

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has serious concerns regarding S.B. 406, which allows any drivers' school defined in section 14-68 that meets certain licensure requirements to offer classes for the state's Operator Retraining Program.

This Program is required for drivers who reach a certain number of moving or suspension violations on their driving record. Drivers who are 24 years of age or younger and have two convictions involving either moving or suspension violations on their driving record must attend the class. Drivers 25 years of age or older must also attend an Operator Retraining Program if they have three convictions involving either moving or suspension violations on their driving record.

DMV is responsible for administrative control and oversight of the Program. In 2009, 17,558 operators were trained in this Program.

The last Request for Proposals outlines what vendors must offer to be approved to offer the Program. These measures include offering a statewide network of locations for classes to ensure that operators have convenient options. In addition, driving schools already have an opportunity to be a part of the Program through one of the three approved vendors, which provide a network of locations throughout the state. DMV has received little, if any, complaints regarding the lack of available classes throughout the state.

DMV works with these three vendors to send and receive information about operators required to take the Program and collect fees owed to the state. In addition, DMV handles oversight functions such as auditing vendor records and inspecting individual classes to ensure the Program is being administered properly.

Currently, there are 89 licensed commercial driving schools operating in 219 locations throughout Connecticut, that would become eligible to be a vendor for the Operator Retraining Program under this proposal.

Each new vendor would have to meet the requirements to transmit information electronically to DMV. This requirement would be very difficult to meet within DMV's current IT capabilities.

DMV has serious concerns as to whether it could effectively oversee and administratively control a large number of vendors with current resources.

For these reasons, we recommend that you oppose this bill in this form.

Seat Belts Do Save Lives