



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES



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*Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles
Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs Public Hearing
February 25, 2010*

Raised H.B. 5265 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPIRATION OF DRIVERS' LICENSES ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) appreciates the spirit of this bill, which aims to assist the men and women who are serving our country throughout the world. DMV would like to take this opportunity to describe how it already helps Armed Forces members renew their drivers' licenses when they are unable to do so in-person.

Upon notification of active duty status, DMV currently utilizes the existing image on file to create a new credential at no fee which is mailed directly to the address provided by the service member. This gives the Armed Forces member a full six-year term (four year for Commercial Driver's Licenses) before another renewal would be required. Equally important, this process removes any ambiguity regarding the validity of their driving status, as the state and national law enforcement data bases are updated to display the new expiration date. This process has been in place for some time without any report of undue inconvenience for our active duty military personnel.

Under the provisions of H.B. 5265, DMV would still need a mail process of confirming paperwork to determine that an Armed Forces member was on active duty. However, the credential in the operator's possession would be expired, diminishing the utility of the license for verification of identification in addition to vehicle operation. Moreover, as the date of separation from active duty is unknown, it does not appear that DMV's information system or the law enforcement data bases can be adjusted to display the license expiration date specified in this proposed bill.

While DMV remains open to new approaches to enhance services in this area, we believe that the current practice is more efficient, effective, and allows Armed Forces members to maintain a valid driver's license throughout their deployment.

(See reverse side)

Seat Belts Do Save Lives

Raised S.B. 213
AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLIANCE WITH
THE MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

S.B. 213 would mandate the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to use the application and renewal processes for drivers' licenses and non-driver identification cards as ways to register with Selective Service System (SSS). While DMV appreciates this concept, the Department already sends information to SSS.

DMV already assists SSS to identify Connecticut residents who are required to register under federal law. DMV electronically sends information of driver's license and non-driver identification card holders twice a year. Under the current transmittal of information, DMV sends SSS the name, mailing address and date of birth of every male between the age of 18 and 26 who hold a driver's license or non-driver identification card in Connecticut.

S.B. 213 would require DMV to overhaul its business processes for the issuance and renewal of drivers' licenses and non-driver identification cards for individuals who are required to register with SSS. This overhaul includes developing a business new policy, training employees, modifying the license system screen, revising current forms and creating a computer program to extract and send data to SSS as proposed. In addition, this bill would require DMV to work with AAA, which conducts driver's license renewals, to change its procedures.

Third, while S.B. 213 would permit DMV to accept money from SSS to pay for costs related to implementing these sections, it is unclear if, or when, the Department would receive this funding necessary to comply with this requirement.