



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Hearing – February 15, 2011 Labor and Public Employees Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jeffrey A. Parker Department of Transportation

S.B. 359 - An Act Concerning Employer Notice to Employees Regarding Mandatory Overtime.

The Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) is opposed to S.B. 359, AAC Employer Notice to Employees Regarding Mandatory Overtime and offers the following comments.

Although well intentioned, the bill has the potential to cause serious disruption to ConnDOT's emergency operations and jeopardize our ability to maintain adequate staffing levels to ensure the proper and expected response to developing needs to maintain the safety of the traveling public.

The most common reason for mandatory overtime at ConnDOT is emergent needs such as catastrophic weather events or natural disasters, accidents and other unplanned events that impact the public transportation systems. In such cases, employees are contacted to voluntarily work the overtime. However, in an emergent situation the Department would need to mandate someone to work if all refused. Although our Maintenance bargaining unit employees are on notice by contract for snow overtime availability from November 1 to April 30 of each winter season, any other overtime that is unplanned would be an emergency situation involving an immediate need to respond. S.B. 359 would permit ConnDOT staff to decline such calls and potentially delay response for a short period of time while multiple volunteers are solicited or even until the next regular business day. Although in many cases volunteers are secured, this bill potentially creates a situation in which the Department is unable to respond to an emergency situation without 24-hours notice to the staff.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.