



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Transportation Committee Senator Andrew Maynard, Co-Chair Representative Anthony Guerrero, Co-Chair

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE Richard A. Smith, 108th Assembly District

DATE: February 23, 2011

RE: **RB 6141 – An Act Increasing The Penalties for
Irresponsible Driving**

Dear Chairmen Maynard & Guerrero:

My name is Richard Smith and I represent the 108th District. I apologize for being unable to attend this Public Hearing in person, however, I had previously committed to a matter in the District.

I am an attorney who has been in private practice since 1983 with a general practice. As such, I have represented numerous defendants in all types of motor vehicle charges, including drug and alcohol related offenses.

The purpose of this proposed Bill is twofold: First, to deter irresponsible driving by requiring those drivers who accumulate six points or more over an **eighteen month period** or who are convicted of an alcohol related driving offense or refuse a chemical test to pay a driver responsibility assessment over a period of three years. By focusing on an eighteen month timeframe, the Bill seeks to address those drivers who are frequent offenders. The bill also allots adequate time for the assessment to be paid, while reminding the offender that additional assessments can be imposed for other violations.



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The second purpose of the Bill is to provide a revenue stream to help offset the administrative and judicial costs incurred by the State to process the repeat offenders and those who are convicted of alcohol and/or drug related driving charges. According to a very preliminary estimate from OFA, approximately \$150,000.00 per year for each of the first three years can be generated, although based on the data listed on Exhibit A attached hereto, the amounts could be significantly higher.

Based on the foregoing, I believe the Bill will help deter irresponsible driving, make our roadways safer and generate revenue to help offset the costs incurred by the State to handle these offenses, without causing undue hardship to the offender. I, therefore, respectfully urge your consideration of passing House Bill 6141.

Thank you,

Richard A. Smith

Richard A. Smith, Esq.
108th District