



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – March 14, 2011 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Acting James P. Redeker Department of Transportation

H.B. 6540 - An Act Concerning the Governor's Highway Safety Program. (ConnDOT proposal)

The Department of Transportation (Department) is proposing language in H.B. 6540 aimed at clearly articulating the Governor's commitment to highway safety programs in accordance with federal law, Section 402 of Title 23, United States Code (USC).

Recently, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) advised the Department that further enabling legislation is needed for compliance with the Highway Safety Act of 1966, as amended (23 USC § 402). The Highway Safety Act of 1978 amended Section 402(b) (1) (a) of Title 23, USC. NHTSA does not find the authorities set forth in Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-28 to be sufficient.

In particular, 23 USC § 402 provides that the Secretary of Transportation shall not approve a State highway safety program that does not "Provide that the Governor of the State shall be responsible for the administration of the program through a State Highway Safety Agency which shall have adequate powers and be suitably equipped and organized to carry out such program." The Secretary of Transportation has delegated the authority and responsibility for assuring compliance with the provisions of the Highway Safety Act with NHTSA. Without H.B. 6540, NHTSA representatives have told the Department that approximately \$26 million in federal highway safety funding could be in jeopardy.

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