



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Melody A. Currey

Transportation Committee Public Hearing March 14, 2011

H.B. No. 6570 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR TEXTING WHILE OPERATING A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE.

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. I am pleased to be here to testify in support HB 6570, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR TEXTING WHILE OPERATING A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE.

Current federal law prohibits texting while operating a commercial motor vehicle. All commercial driver license holders and commercial motor vehicle operators are subject to the penalties prescribed under federal law. As a result, Connecticut will be required to enforce these penalties. This proposed legislation will provide the Department a mechanism for this enforcement of federal law.

Section 1 changes the definition of "serious traffic violation" in Section 14-1 by adding the offense of texting while driving a commercial motor vehicle. By adding this to the definition, it ensures the penalties prescribed under federal law for texting are applied through Section 14-44k(f).

Section 2 amends Section 14-296aa to create a separate subsection for the offense of texting while driving a commercial motor vehicle in order to ensure that after the violations is processed, the driving history of the commercial motor vehicle operator will correctly reflect this violation as an offense for which a CDL disqualification may result.

Again, thank you for the chance to testify in support of HB 6570 and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.