



# The Redding Police Department

Douglas S. Fuchs,  
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Testimony of  
**Douglas S. Fuchs**  
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President Elect  
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In Support of  
SB No. 705

## **An Act Requiring the Issuance of Motor Vehicle Registration Stickers**

Chairman Maynard, members of the Transportation Committee, my Senator, Senator Boucher... Good Morning. My name is Douglas Fuchs. I am the Chief of Police in the Town of Redding and the President-Elect of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. I am here this morning to testify very much in support of Senate Bill 705, an act which requires the issuance and display of Motor Vehicle Registration Stickers.

For years, police officers in Connecticut utilized the rear registration sticker, or lack thereof, as an indication that a vehicle was operating on our roadways in violation of the registration requirements. This expired sticker or missing sticker would cause the police officer to either conduct a motor vehicle stop or query the registration to determine if, in fact, the registration was expired. While the expired registration may have been the primary violation observed, it was common knowledge that often times the police officer would additionally find that this same vehicle was:

- Not insured,
- Suspended,
- Being operated by an unlicensed or suspended driver,
- Or was in fact, stolen.

When the registration sticker was moved to the front windshield, a move which was not widely supported amongst Connecticut Police Departments, the enforcement of expired registrations declined. As police officers learned how to position themselves so as to be able to better observe the windshield sticker, we were able to improve our ability to enforce this statute. At the very least, a police officer could look for the absence of that windshield sticker as an indication that the vehicle was not properly registered.

Last year, when Motor Vehicles made the decision to eliminate all vehicle registration stickers, law enforcement lost all ability to easily identify unregistered motor vehicles traveling upon our roadways.

Once again, our enforcement numbers went down in direct proportion to our inability to identify these vehicles. Along with that decrease in enforcement comes a decrease in associated revenue from violations and a decrease in vehicles on grand lists.

Law enforcement routinely and successfully utilizes motor vehicle enforcement as a tool to reduce criminal activity. Many criminals switch plates on cars to avoid detection by the police, and the absence of any registration sticker just makes that easier to perpetrate.

From an Officer's safety standpoint, as now there is no way for a police officer to have any idea whether or not a registration plate is valid, the officer is at a disadvantage when approaching an operator.

The most obvious location, from our standpoint, would be to place the registration sticker or insert on the rear plate – in the center with the expiration year and plate number on the actual insert. I have a sample with me here today.

The argument has been made that thru the use of License Plate Readers the need to have these stickers has diminished. The truth is that these readers are extremely expensive at about \$18,000 each and are not used by many departments as they are not affordable. I believe that there are less than 15 readers currently in use throughout the entire state.

In closing, registration stickers were developed and utilized for one user's group (if you will) – police officers. The vehicle owner or operator really has no use for them and Motor Vehicles, once issued, never sees them again. They were developed for us – for police officers to be able to easily identify those vehicles which should not be on the road, thus making our highways safer for all.

Please help us by reinstating the registration sticker requirement.

Respectfully Submitted,



Douglas S. Fuchs  
Chief of Police

Sample Registration



Expiration Month

Expiration Year with  
Registration #