

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
Acting Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 28, 2010

Rep. Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrew M. Maynard, Co-Chairman
Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**SB 719 AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN INFORMATION CONTAINED ON A MOTOR VEHICLE
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION TO BE ENCRYPTED**

The Department of Public Safety opposes this bill.

This proposed bill would require encrypting (bar code) of information on a vehicle's registration. While the intent of this bill is good in regard to protecting personal information of owners of vehicles that are stolen, the bill would have an adverse impact on public safety in general.

How will the encrypted paperwork be read in the field?

Who will supply the bar code reader for the patrol car?

How will the bar code reader receive its information from DMV?

How will out of state law enforcement agencies read encrypted information when vehicle is stopped in another state?

The present registration paperwork uses plain language for the owner's information (name/address). This format allows a police officer to use this information in several ways:

Fill out a summons with needed information

Query operator of vehicle about owner's information (to further an investigation or to make sure Operator "belongs" to car)

Use registration at an accident scene to gather information on vehicle owner when operator cannot be located or operator is injured and cannot relay any information to investigating officer.

Use registration found in abandoned vehicle to locate owner information

Use registration paperwork as a "backup information" when electronic files are unavailable.

The present system works well for public safety purposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Col. Danny R. Stebbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "S".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
ACTING COMMISSIONER