



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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<http://ct.gov/dmv>



Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Melody A. Currey

Transportation Committee Public Hearing

February 28, 2011

S.B. No. 1018 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEIGH STATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC RENEWAL NOTICES AND THE ELIMINATION OF VISION SCREENING TESTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.

Good morning Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard, Representative Scribner, Senator Boucher and other members of the Transportation Committee. I am pleased to be here today to testify in support of the Governor's proposal, SB 1018 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEIGH STATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC RENEWAL NOTICES AND THE ELIMINATION OF VISION SCREENING TESTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.

This legislation proposes several changes to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) which include a consolidation of weigh station operations to DMV with support from the Department of Public Safety, the elimination of renewal notices for licenses and non-driver identification cards, and the elimination of funding for the Vision Screening Program.

The Department is very supportive of the Governor's initiatives to find efficiencies and savings and streamline state government for an improved customer experience; and, the DMV looks forward to implementing these proposals as part of our mission. At the same time, the Department will continue to improve customer service, and continue efforts to do more with less, harnessing new technologies where appropriate. Regarding the weigh station operations transfer, DMV recognizes this will be a significant change and we will work closely with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in this regard. Currently, DMV is in the process of determining how best to address a variety of issues associated with this transfer of operations. We need to be sure to balance the need for public safety on our roads and highways while at the same time ensuring that revenues generated under the current configuration continue to support the necessary programs.

The proposed elimination of renewal notices for licenses and non-driver identification is being reviewed by the Department to determine how best to implement it and effectively communicate it to the public. A number of options are being examined. As part of its analysis, DMV is carefully reviewing how the Registry of Motor Vehicles in neighboring Massachusetts successfully implemented a similar program change to reduce state expenditures.

Finally, regarding the proposed elimination of vision screening tests: After many years of delayed implementation due to concerns about vision screening's cost and effectiveness, the DMV supports this permanent elimination of this program. The projected costs of this program cannot be supported given its questionable benefits and the numerous problems associated with it.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 1018 and would be happy to answer any questions.