



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles

Transportation Committee Public Hearing

February 22, 2012

H.B. No. 5023 AN ACT CONCERNING ARREST POWERS OF LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS AND MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS, to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 5023, AN ACT CONCERNING ARREST POWERS OF LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS AND MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is in support of this bill because it provides statutory protection for DMV Inspectors and increases public safety by expanding the law enforcement presence in the state with existing resources.

DMV inspectors are certified officers and receive the same basic and review training as municipal officers at the Police Officer Standards and Training Academy (POST). Inspectors carry the same equipment, including firearms, as municipal and state police officers. Ten DMV inspectors are certified by POST as instructors in firearms, defensive tactics, use of force, shooting decisions, arrest & control, baton, OC spray, handcuffing, field training, hazardous materials, radar, motor vehicle law & enforcement and vehicle stop tactics. They provide review training for DMV inspectors, municipal police officers and state troopers. Inspectors receive advanced training in drug interdiction techniques and carry specialized equipment which can detect certain radiological materials

DMV Inspectors patrol the state's highways and staff the weigh stations. They are authorized to make arrests or issue citations for violations of any statute or regulation relating to motor vehicles. State law also adopts numerous federal motor carrier safety regulations which are enforced by Inspectors. In the course of their duties, DMV inspectors detain persons wanted by other law enforcement agencies and turn over persons to law enforcement agencies whom they have probable cause to believe committed a crime. Peace officer authority would allow Inspectors to take immediate action for any crime observed during the performance of their on-duty activities thereby enhancing public safety.

Thank you again for allowing me to submit testimony in support of this bill.