



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

March 5, 2012

H.B. No. 5368 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE STATE'S TAXICAB INDUSTRY

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee.

I am submitting this testimony to raise concerns regarding H.B. 5368, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE STATE'S TAXICAB INDUSTRY

This proposed legislation creates a new type of license that the Department of Motor Vehicles will be required to issue to taxicab operators, referred to in the proposal as a "hack" license. This is to be issued *in addition* to the operator's license presently issued to a taxicab operator.

The Department already has a licensing system that encompasses taxicab operators. It issues license endorsements that are placed on the operator's license of the person licensed. That license contains the operator's image and all of the information that is required to identify the operator, as well as to indicate that the person is authorized to operate a taxicab.

Under this proposed bill, the DMV will be required to process "hack" license applications by conducting a manual review involving several steps. The legislation, in addition to requiring the issuance of this license, mandates an "expedited" licensing process for its issuance, as well as for the endorsements that the Department now issues to public service operators who drive taxicabs. Prior to the issuance of these endorsements, the Department is required to conduct state and federal fingerprint-based background checks of the applicant with the FBI and the Connecticut State Police, which impedes compliance with an expedited process. In addition to the license, the bill contemplates that "hack" license records will be created on which certain non-moving violations would be entered, which will require either manual intervention in coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOT), or will require us to build a system that electronically communicates these violations from DOT.

The Department is making a concerted effort to streamline its processes, and eliminate duplication. The "hack" license serves to *create* a redundancy in the licensing process that is unnecessary and costly. This proposal is not in keeping with the goal of lean government.

Also, please be aware that this proposal would severely hamper DMV's IT modernization project, called CIVLS (Connecticut Integrated Vehicle and Licensing System). The next phase of the project is already coded and ready to launch in the next couple of months and this proposal will cause lengthy delays as well as cost DMV substantial dollars.

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