

Testimony for Transportation Committee  
Submitted by James MacPherson for CDSP  
Mar. 5, 2012

Re: Raised H.B. 5371

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Sen. Boucher, Rep. Scribner and members of the Transportation Committee.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Connecticut Driving School Professionals in favor of Raised Bill No. 5371. This would extend, from one year to two, the length of a driving instructor's license in the state of Connecticut.

The renewal process generates a surprising amount of work and, while the paperwork may not seem overly burdensome, for schools with multiple instructors, the process is time consuming and costly. In one example of a larger driving school, the process can command the attention of supporting staff members for a full month.

In our experience, little changes in most cases from one year to the next. The current statute already has provisions that require reporting, often within 48 hours, changes in an instructor's status that would cause the DMV to reevaluate his or her qualifications to hold that license.

The extension of the renewal period, from one year to two, should have no adverse effect on training or safety. In fact, by lengthening the period, it could make it possible for the DMV to spend more time on the review process for each application, with no change in staffing levels.

In addition, and while it is not part of this bill, the CDSP also is in favor extending the term of licensing for driving schools from one year to two. A proposed amendment to that effect is attached to my written testimony. The same reasons just cited for extending the licensing period for instructors also applies to driving schools, but the paperwork burden that comes with these renewals is greater. Extending the term of both licenses, from one year to two, should allow the DMV and the driving schools to be more efficient.

## Amendment to HB 5371

**(NEW) Sec. 2** Section 14-69 of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2012):

**Sec. 14-69. License to conduct a drivers' school.** (a) No person shall engage in the business of conducting a drivers' school without being licensed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. An application for a license shall be in writing and shall contain such information as the commissioner requires. Each applicant for a license shall be fingerprinted before such application is approved. The commissioner shall subject each applicant for a license or the renewal of a license to state and national criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, and a check of the state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. If any such applicant has a criminal record or is listed on the state child abuse and neglect registry, the commissioner shall make a determination of whether to issue or renew a license to conduct a drivers' school in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in section 14-44 and the regulations adopted pursuant to said section. If the application is approved, the applicant shall be granted a license upon the payment of a fee of three hundred fifty dollars and a deposit with the commissioner of cash or a bond of a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned on the faithful performance by the applicant of any contract to furnish instruction, in either case in such amount as the commissioner may require, such cash or bond to be held by the commissioner to satisfy any execution issued against such school in a cause arising out of failure of such school to perform such contract. For each additional place of business of such school, the commissioner shall charge a fee of eighty-eight dollars. No license shall be required in the case of any board of education, or any public, private or parochial school, which conducts a course in driver education established in accordance with sections 14-36e and 14-36f. A license so issued shall be valid for one year. The commissioner shall issue a license certificate or certificates to each licensee, one of which shall be displayed in each place of business of the licensee. In case of the loss, mutilation or destruction of a certificate, the commissioner shall issue a duplicate upon proof of the facts and the payment of a fee of twenty dollars.

(b) The [annual] biennial fee for the renewal of a license shall be [three hundred fifty] seven hundred dollars and the [annual] biennial renewal fee for each additional place of business shall be [eighty-eight] one hundred seventy six dollars. If the commissioner has not received a complete renewal application and all applicable renewal fees on or before the expiration date of an applicant's license, the commissioner shall charge such applicant, in addition to such renewal fees, a late fee of [three hundred fifty] seven hundred dollars.