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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 5462

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUSPENSION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSE FOR MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES OF OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A LICENSE.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the motor vehicles commissioner to treat an individual's second or subsequent conviction for driving without a driver's license as a 90-day license "suspension." It prohibits the commissioner from issuing the offender a license until (1) this 90-day period expires and (2) the offender has satisfied all applicable license requirements. The law already prohibits the commissioner from issuing a driver's license, for a period of time the commissioner determines, to a person who drives without holding a Connecticut driver's license (CGS § 14-111 (g)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Penalties for Driving Without a License***

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle (1) without a driver's license or (2) when the driver's license or right to operate in Connecticut ( if a nonresident) has been suspended or revoked.

By law, a first violation of driving without a license is an infraction that carries a fine of between \$75 and \$90; subsequent offenses carry a fine of between \$250 and \$350, up to 30 days in jail, or both.

In addition, someone who violated either of the above laws (e.g., operated without a license or under suspension) once before must be fined an additional amount up to \$500 or sentenced to up to 100 hours of community service. Someone who violated either of the above laws at least twice before, or both at least once before, faces a prison

sentence of one year, and must serve at least 90 days (CGS § 14-36 (i)).

***Related Law***

The law prohibits the commissioner from issuing a driver's license for at least one year to anyone age 17 or less who is convicted of operating a motor vehicle without a license, if the commissioner finds that the offender did not hold a license at the time of the offense (CGS § 14-36k).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/14/2012)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 45 Nay 0 (03/28/2012)