



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 129**

February Session, 2012

Substitute Senate Bill No. 321

*Senate, March 27, 2012*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. HARTLEY of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-315 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
4 shall study the problems of street and highway safety, shall act as the  
5 central coordinating agency of state departments, organizations and  
6 instrumentalities engaged in the elimination of motor vehicle  
7 accidents; shall study all phases of the problem of obtaining better  
8 observance and uniform enforcement of the laws for the regulation of  
9 highway travel and motor vehicle operation; shall study methods of  
10 safety control and engineering in this and other states with a view to  
11 improvement in such methods in this state; shall study problems of  
12 safety as they affect home, farm and school accidents; shall act as the  
13 central coordinating agency of the state in the planning and execution

14 of safety programs and campaigns for the prevention of accidents and  
 15 the loss of manpower and may conduct educational programs and  
 16 campaigns relating to industrial safety; shall advise with and assist the  
 17 Commissioner of Transportation and other state department heads in  
 18 the accomplishment of the purposes stated [herein] in this subsection.

19 (b) Not later than July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Emergency  
 20 Services and Public Protection shall develop and implement a strategic  
 21 highway safety plan to substantially reduce vehicle-related fatalities  
 22 and injuries on state highways. For the purposes of this subsection,  
 23 "state highway" has the same meaning as provided in section 13a-1.  
 24 Not later than January 9, 2013, the commissioner shall report to the  
 25 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
 26 of matters relating to public safety on the progress made in developing  
 27 and implementing such strategic plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	14-315

**PS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 13 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	\$50,000-\$100,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

This bill would cost the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in FY 13 only. Currently the agency does not have the personnel or the expertise to develop a Strategic Highway Safety Plan, as required by the bill. A consultant or additional staff would be required to meet the bills requirements.

**The Out Years**

The fiscal impact identified above would not have any impact in years beyond FY 13.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 321*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner (1) by July 1, 2013, to develop and implement a strategic highway safety plan to substantially reduce motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries on the state's highways and (2) by January 9, 2013, to report to the Public Safety and Security Committee on his progress in developing and implementing the plan. In practice, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) currently prepares highway safety plans (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Existing Highway Safety Plans***

***Highway Safety Plan.*** The federal government gives states money for a highway safety program to prevent roadway fatalities and injuries. Annually, the DOT publishes a Highway Safety Plan, which serves as the application for federal funds. The report provides extensive data on highway safety issues and problems and measures designed to address them.

***Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).*** The DOT's Highway Safety Office coordinates and implements a Strategic Highway Safety Plan to identify the state's critical safety needs and direct resources to achieve reduction in highway fatalities and injuries. The SHSP is prepared in cooperation and collaboration with the Highway Safety Improvement Program and provides the mechanism for a coordinated effort to address highway safety problems in the state.

**Accident Prevention Program**

Existing law requires the DESPP commissioner to study highway safety issues and coordinate agencies engaged in eliminating motor vehicle accidents; coordinate, plan, and execute highway safety programs and campaigns; and advise and help the transportation commissioner and other agency heads improve highway safety.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/13/2012)