



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 19, 2012***

H.B. No. 5507 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING OPERATION OF A TRUCK IN VIOLATION OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL REGULATION AND THE ISSUANCE OF ENHANCED RECOGNITION NUMBER PLATES, to: (1) Clarify that operation of a truck on a highway where truck passage is prohibited constitutes an infraction, and establish a defense for such operation if the operator has a permit for such use or presents evidence of a destination or origin related to such highway, and (2) provide for the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to design and issue enhanced recognition number plates to replace existing number plates, other than special number plates, to enhance the ability of children and other individuals to assist in a law enforcement investigation of an abduction or other crime by better enabling the child or other individual to recall and describe the number plate of a suspect motor vehicle.

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Hetherington and other members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 5507, AN ACT CONCERNING OPERATION OF A TRUCK IN VIOLATION OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL REGULATION AND THE ISSUANCE OF ENHANCED RECOGNITION NUMBER PLATES.

The Department has serious concerns about this legislation, in particular sections 2, 3 and 4 that deal with requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to create and issue "enhanced recognition license plates."

The Department certainly appreciates the need to help individuals assist law enforcement with criminal investigations, especially if they involve abductions of children, or other criminal activities.

However, DMV has very strong reservations about this bill for many reasons. While the Department always supports ensuring that its license plates are legible and easy to read, it is not clear that adding symbols, such as stars, to a license plate would aid in that regard. In fact, DMV is very concerned that by adding symbols to its license plates they may actually hinder individuals and law enforcement from being able to identify the plate and corresponding motor vehicle. Much of the law enforcement community here in Connecticut currently utilize license plate readers which may not be able to even scan and read license plates with such symbols.

Also, there are issues concerning traveling out of state with plates containing symbols. Law enforcement in other states would certainly have issues and problems with being able to discern what these symbols mean. EZ pass tolls would face similar difficulties.