



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Public Safety and Security Committee
Public Hearing
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**House Bill 5391, An Act Establishing An Insurance And Vehicle
Registration Verification System**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to **House Bill 5391, *An Act Establishing an Insurance and Vehicle Registration System***. This bill would utilize cameras to detect vehicles that are uninsured or unregistered and then assess a fine on the owner. The Judicial Branch has a number of concerns with this proposal.

Section 2(a)(4) states that the designated third party will establish a verification system to provide the court with information regarding the owner's vehicle. We would respectfully submit that this information ought to be submitted to the state's attorneys, not the court, since it will be their decision as to what to charge and prosecute.

Section 5(c) provides for a default judgment to be entered if a summons is not answered within the time permitted. Default judgments are not utilized in criminal/motor vehicle matters. As an example, please see C.G.S. §51-164r, which addresses one's failure to pay or plead.

Section 7(b) also presents a number of concerns, requiring significant resources to implement as well as changes to several computer systems. For example, it is unclear how these tickets will be distinguishable from those that are not generated by a third party so that they can be processed differently. Our current computer system would

not allow for this. Also unclear is how the Judicial Branch's Fiscal Administration unit would know which third party to direct revenue towards in the event that there is more than one third party.

Finally, the bill fails to contemplate that 14-12(a) offenses are subject to the special transportation surcharge, and that currently the fine and surcharge are deposited in the special transportation fund (STF). If this bill is enacted, these offenses would need to be removed from STF processing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.