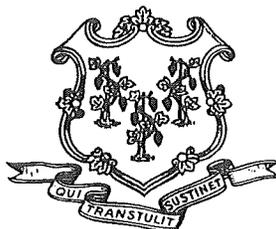


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April 1, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to testify in support of HB 6638, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF A MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OR USE OF A DIRT BIKE, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OR SNOWMOBILE

Dirt bikes have become more than a nuisance in the City of New Haven. They create unsafe conditions for pedestrians and motorists and decrease the quality of life for residents. They are also unsafe for riders.

Dirt Bikes do not have the array of the safety features that road safe vehicles possess. They often lack blinkers, mirrors, and lights. This absence of protective features is hazardous for road-safe automobiles and motorcycles as well as for pedestrians. The other vehicles and the pedestrians have no way to know where the dirt bikes are

headed or what they are going to do next. In addition, dirt bike tires are designed for traction on dirt trails and are frequently unsafe on asphalt. The loud whir of dirt bikes racing on the street and sidewalk late into the evening constitutes a nuisance in urban areas

HB 6638 would allow a municipality to set a maximum penalty of two thousand dollars for retrieval of a dirt bike confiscated due to a violation of a municipal regulation or ordinance; I would also support the creation of a title system for dirt bike ownership so that such ownership can be tracked as well as a provision permitting the destruction of a dirt bike that was confiscated for a second such a violation. These provisions may not solve the entire problem of dirt bikes in the City but would constitute a good first step.

Thank you for raising this important legislation