



# 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  
Transportation Committee Public Hearing  
February 20, 2013***

Proposed H.B. No. 5384 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY AUTOMOBILE DEALERS TO BUYERS WITH CERTAIN LOCAL ENFORCEMENT ISSUES.

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on proposed H.B. No. 5384 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY AUTOMOBILE DEALERS TO BUYERS WITH CERTAIN LOCAL ENFORCEMENT ISSUES.

The Department opposes this proposed bill. Section 14-33 of the Connecticut General Statutes prohibits the Commissioner from renewing a registration for a motor vehicle owned by a person who owes local property taxes. When such a person appears at the Department to register a motor vehicle or renew his or her registration, that person is turned away.

Automobile dealers are permitted by statute to issue registrations as a convenience to their customers who purchase vehicles at the dealership. While these dealers step into the shoes of the Commissioner in issuing registrations, they are asking you to exempt them from a requirement that this legislature has imposed upon the Commissioner, and which is consistently enforced by the Department. The result would be that persons who purchase from a dealer have a temporary reprieve from paying their property tax while people who purchase a vehicle by private sale do not. This is an inequitable application of the law, and would seem to penalize those who may not be able to afford to purchase a vehicle from a dealership.

The stated purpose of the proposal is to increase the sale of motor vehicles. The Department is not aware that a correlation has been established to indicate that this proposal would lead to increased sales. It simply allows the dealer to sell a vehicle that in two weeks' time will not be able to be permanently registered unless the person has paid his or her taxes in full. It has the effect of shifting the consequences to DMV and to the Towns. This legislation affords dealers the benefits of registering vehicles with none of the corresponding responsibilities that this legislature imposed when it adopted section 14-33.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify on this proposed legislation.