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JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

February 20, 2013

Testimony of State Representative Juan Candelaria

Re: HB 6254 An Act Concerning The Operation of Mini-Motorcycles, Motor Scooters and All-Terrain Vehicles On Roads and Sidewalks.

Good morning Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the committee this morning. I am State Representative Juan Candelaria and I represent the 95th Assembly District in New Haven. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 6254, AAC The Operation of Mini-Motorcycles, Motor Scooters and All-Terrain Vehicles On Roads and Sidewalks.

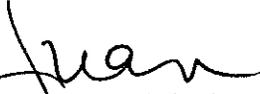
Many urban cities have seen an increase of illegal operations of dirt bikes and ATV's in our city roads and sidewalks. The problem has been such that in the city of New Haven a young child was struck by an illegal dirt bike. These individuals ride in packs of three or more frightening the neighborhood by not following traffic laws or considering pedestrian safety. Therefore, we must provide law enforcement with better tools to curb this ongoing problem.

The intent of the bill is to raise fines from \$80 to \$300, for using all-terrain vehicle (ATV), dirt bikes, mini-motorcycles, motor scooters on any city, town or state road or sidewalk without proper insurance, registration and license. It sets the fine in statute instead of having the court set it and makes the violation an offense instead of an infraction.

The bill would require that half of the fines collected go to the state and half to the town where the violation occurred.

We can't afford to keep ignoring this growing trend without taking measures to ensure the safety of our communities and avoid possible fatalities that may occur otherwise.

Thank you again for your consideration and attention.



Juan Candelaria
State Representative