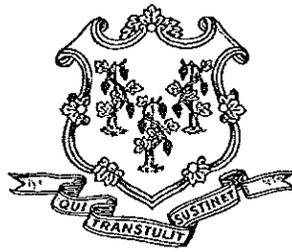


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February 4, 2013

Testimony to the Transportation Committee
SB 135: An Act Concerning The Civil Penalty For The Failure Of Certain Motor Vehicle Operators To Maintain Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Beth Bye, State Senator for the 5th district, representing West Hartford, Farmington, Burlington, and Bloomfield.

I come to you today in support of SB 135. I have a constituent who, due to her husband losing his job, was unable to pay her family's motor vehicle insurance. This, as it should, caused the Department of Motor Vehicles to cancel the registrations on her vehicles until the insurance charge was paid. Once the family's financial situation improved, she reinsured and reregistered her vehicles, but the department charged her \$400 – a \$200 per vehicle penalty – for the insurance lapse.

In these trying times, with families across Connecticut experiencing economic hardship and our job market slowly rebounding, I believe there is room for fairness for those who, though they do everything right, have been negatively affected by our economy.

This proposal allows a registrant to, if they inform the DMV at the time of the cancellation of their registration, that the insurance lapse is due to a provable change in financial circumstance, reregister their vehicle for the remainder of their initial registration period at no additional cost.

In our state, a working, properly registered automobile is practically a necessity to commute to work, school, or even the grocery store. Let's not unnecessarily penalize those who aren't purposefully driving without insurance, who need their car to earn living. Instead, we should recognize that even people who follow the rules sometimes encounter situations beyond their control. \$400 is a lot for a family already facing a hardship.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of this bill, which does not decrease the penalty for those who purposefully attempt to skirt the law. I am open to any questions the members might have.

Thank you.

