



**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  
March 8, 2013***

**SB 975 – AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE TRANSPORTATION STATUTES**

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee.

I am pleased to be here today to testify in support of sections 11 and 23 of SB 975, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE TRANSPORTATION STATUTES.

First, the language in section 23 would amend CGS section 14-36(e) to require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to explicitly include a question regarding distracted driving and the use of mobile phones or electronic devices on the Department's written knowledge test. DMV already offers such questions on its written knowledge exams, however, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has requested this specific change to the statutes, in conjunction with other changes, in order for Connecticut to be eligible for certain federal funds based upon the federal law (MAP-21)

Also, Section 11 of the bill would amend CGS 14-296aa by clarifying the definition of "operating a motor vehicle" to include being temporarily stopped at a traffic signal, or for road conditions or traffic. It would not include being safely parked on the side or shoulder of a highway. Section 11 would also clarify the exemption for ham radio operator use that the device be used in emergency situations for emergency purposes only. NHTSA has also recommended these proposed changes for the state to be eligible to qualify for federal funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of one of the Department's legislative initiatives. I would be happy to try to answer any questions.