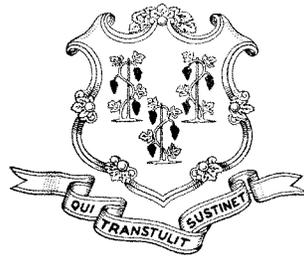


SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY
Majority Leader

Looney@senatedems.ct.gov
www.senatedems.ct.gov



Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Telephone (860) 240-8600
FAX (860) 240-0208

State of Connecticut

SENATE
11th District

Good Afternoon Senator Osten and Representative Rojas and members of the Planning and Development Committee. I am here to testify in support of HB 5141 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF A MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OR USE OF A DIRT BIKE, SNOWMOBILE OR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE, and SB 116 AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY MAJOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

Dirt bikes are a public safety hazard in the City of New Haven and in many other municipalities. They create unsafe conditions for pedestrians and motorists and decrease the quality of life for residents. These vehicles often lack the array of the safety features that road safe vehicles possess including blinkers, mirrors, and lights, thus making them unsafe for riders. 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 whirl of dirt bikes racing on the street and sidewalk late into the evening constitutes a nuisance in urban areas.

Last year the General Assembly passed PA 13-154 which increased the maximum penalties allowed for violations of municipal ordinances regulating certain dirt bike, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), and snowmobile use. It authorizes municipal fines of up to \$2,000. The proposal in HB 5141 would allow a municipality to seize these vehicles after a rider's third violation of the ordinance. This legislation would assist municipalities that are attempting to enforce the much needed ban on such vehicles.

SB 116 would allow municipalities to offer property tax relief to businesses that are being adversely affected by construction activities. I have heard from several businesses in my district that have had a significant loss in revenue due to the fact that the business is in the middle of a construction zone. This legislation would allow municipalities to assist such businesses that are having a difficult time retaining profitability during construction that interferes with consumer traffic.

Thank you for raising this important legislation.