



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
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Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
March 5, 2014

S.B. No. 334 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADULT INSTRUCTION PERMITS.

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. I am here today to testify regarding SB 334 AN ACT CONCERNING ADULT INSTRUCTION PERMITS. This bill would require an Adult Instruction Permit (AIP) applicant to provide proof of successful completion of the statutorily mandated 8-hour safe driving course prior to applying for an AIP. In addition, it would also require an AIP holder to: 1) complete a minimum of ten hours of behind-the-wheel instruction under the training of a driving instructor or a person at least 20 years of age with a driver license not suspended within the past four years and 2) provide a written statement by the instructor or person teaching the applicant attesting to the necessary on-the-road instruction. Finally, the legislation would also allow an AIP holder to obtain a driver's license in 45 days rather than 90 if the AIP holder completed four hours of behind-the-wheel through a licensed driving school.

The Department does have some concerns regarding the proposal. The changes outlined above would necessitate modifications to DMV's license issuing procedures, associated IT systems, training completion certificates and the retention and storage of additional documentation.

The proponents of the legislation are concerned that many adults seeking an AIP fail the written knowledge test the first time they take the test but continue to drive without a permit. The suggestion is if the AIP applicants are mandated to take the 8-hour safe driving course first then fewer applicants would fail the written exam on the first attempt. The data DMV has seen thus far is not clear regarding this concern and would prefer to wait at least one more year to collect and analyze the data further to ensure the proposed changes are warranted.

DMV also is concerned about the effective date of October 1, 2014. DMV would ask the Committee that if this legislation were to move forward then the effective date be delayed until at least October 1, 2015 in order to afford DMV sufficient time to properly plan and implement this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.