
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5466

AN ACT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES' PROCEDURES FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR JOB APPLICANTS AND TAXATION OF COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE FUELS TAX.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires prospective Department of Revenue Services (DRS) employees to (1) disclose their criminal convictions and pending charges, (2) be fingerprinted, and (3) submit to state and national criminal history record checks under Connecticut's uniform criminal record check procedure. These requirements apply to (1) non-state employees applying for employment with DRS and (2) state employees seeking to transfer to the DRS. DRS must enforce the requirements consistent with the law prohibiting employers from requiring prospective employees to disclose information in certain erased criminal records (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, prospective DRS employees must state in writing whether (1) they have ever been convicted of a crime or (2) charges are pending against them on the date they apply for a DRS position. If charges are pending, the applicant must identify them and the court in which they are pending.

By June 15, 2014 and annually thereafter, the bill also requires the DRS commissioner, in consultation with the energy and environmental protection commissioner, to issue information about how the motor vehicle fuels tax on compressed natural gas is calculated. The information must include the conversion factor used to determine the liquid gallon equivalent of natural gas to liquid motor vehicle fuels. The factor must be consistent with applicable federal standards and be applied to the 12-month period beginning on the following July 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Nondisclosure of Information Contained in Erased Criminal Records

The law prohibits all employers, including the state and its political subdivisions, from requiring prospective and current employees to disclose records of erased arrests, criminal charges, or convictions (CGS § 31-51i). It similarly prohibits employers from denying employment, or discharging an employee, solely because of information contained in such records. The records that the law covers relate to delinquency; family with service needs or youth offender status; criminal charges that have been dismissed, nolle, or resulted in not guilty findings; and absolute pardons.

Employment application forms requesting criminal history data must contain a statement informing applicants that (1) they are not required to disclose criminal history data subject to erasure, (2) the erasure of this data deems they were never arrested for the associated crime, and (3) they can swear under oath that they were never arrested for those crimes.

Federal Standards on Natural Gas Conversion Factors

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's *Uniform Laws and Regulations in Areas of Legal Metrology and Engine Fuel Quality Handbook 130* (2013) specifies that a gallon of gasoline is equivalent to 2.567 kg (5.660 lb) of natural gas.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/01/2014)