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Raised Bill 519
Public Hearing: 2-23-15

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FROM: CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)
DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT OF SB519, AAC STATE LIABILITY FOR INJURIES CAUSED BY DEFECTIVE HIGHWAYS**

The Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association (“CTLA”) SUPPORTS Raised Bill 519, “An Act Concerning State Liability for Injuries Caused by Defective Highways”.

When a person seeks to bring a claim for injuries caused by a defective highway, the person files a notice of intention to bring that claim within 90 days of the injury. By proposing to extend the filing time for that notice to six months, this bill recognizes the reality that some people, due to their injuries, are not in a position to file that notice within the 90 days. The extra three months gives people an opportunity to heal sufficiently so that they are able to take the steps necessary to file the proper notice.

The bill also recognizes the reality that police departments are often “over – worked” and do not have the resources to issue their investigative reports following accidents as quickly as they once did. Without the police report, the injured person has difficulty filing the notice claim. This bill would allow the injured party more time to get the report from the police department so that they have the appropriate information to file the notice.

Lastly, this bill conforms the notice period of Section 13a-144 to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-465. Section 7-465 governs claims for negligence brought against municipal employees. Section 7-465 requires a notice of intention to bring such a claim to be filed within six months of the injury. This bill would make Section 13a-144 and Section 7-465 consistent.

WE URGE YOU TO PASS HB519. Thank you.