



15

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TIM ACKERT
EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (860) 742-5287
Tim.Ackert@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, February 9th, 2015

Transportation Committee Public Hearing Testimony on HB 5944, 5946, 5451

Dear Senator Andrew Maynard, Representative Antonio Guerrero, Senator Toni Boucher, Representative Tom O'Dea and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Tim Ackert and I represent the 8th District which includes Columbia, Coventry, Vernon and Tolland. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak on House Bills 5944, 5946 and 5451.

HB 5944:

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAILING OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS AND NOTICES OF EMISSIONS TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

I have brought this issue to the Committee for consideration for a couple of reasons: cost and impact on Connecticut drivers.

First, the cost to send approximately 1.4 million emission notifications to owners with vehicles registered in the state a year. This postcard is similar in size to much of the mail that gets discarded as unwanted mail. The same vehicle owners are also mailed a registration renewal and the cost of this mailing is .14 per envelope. Every two years, the majority of vehicle owners have to bring their vehicles to an approved emission test facility to have it tested. If the vehicle is not tested in the allotted time frame there is a twenty dollar late fee imposed on the owner and they cannot reregister their vehicle until they have passed emissions or received an emissions waiver.

This brings me to my second point- the impact of this new notification system on compliance. Since the state has gone to the new postcard notice, there has been a noted saving to the state of approximately \$400,000 in mailings. The transition to the new postcard over letter mailings took place a few years ago. Coincidentally the fines rose drastically with this new mailing procedure. There was a time we had to look at an emissions sticker on our front window to remind of our emissions was due. In 2006, the late fees were approximately \$307,000.



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TIM ACKERT
EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (860) 742-5287
Tim.Ackert@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Here are the late fees collected over the last five years:

Year	Amount
2008	\$1,888,800.76
2009	\$2,347,691.99
2010	\$3,097,914.9
2011	\$2,983,601.51
2012	\$3,460,165.58
2013	\$3,300,000.00
2014	\$3,400,000.00

It is still apparent to me that we have a notification problem. I believe we can fix that problem and save money by mailing the emissions notification with the registration renewal. The owner of the vehicle will know they have to complete the emissions test before renewing their registration. This process will save the state time and money and the vehicle owner an unwanted late fee.

HB 5946:

AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

I am asking that the general statutes be amended to allow any new registration of a motor vehicle is completed online, and that the Department of Motor Vehicles shall mail license plates to the vehicle owner. It seems the technology is in place to register a vehicle online since car dealers can do it today. This legislation is not about reducing staff at our DMV service centers but saving people time and money. I ask you to think about how many productive labor hours are lost due to time at the DMV. Although I do believe the DMV has done a commendable job streamlining services and offer some online services today.

HB 5451:

AN ACT CONCERNING CAMERAS ON VEHICLES TRANSPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TIM ACKERT
EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (860) 742-5287
Tim.Ackert@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

I am asking that the general statutes be amended to require the installation of cameras on vehicles operated by school districts that transport children with special needs. This technology is very common among many cities and states just Google cameras on buses and you will see the value these videos have been to catching perpetrators of our most vulnerable. Unfortunately the need to provide cameras on vehicles that transport children with special needs is not a proactive bill. It comes from the after math of a sexual abuse case in my district one that can happen anywhere. This technology may not stop all instances of abuse but it will give a voice to those that may not feel as if they have a voice.