



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Andres Ayala, Jr.
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
February 23, 2015***

S.B. No. 936 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO AUTOCYCLES AND THREE-WHEELED MOTORCYCLES.

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and other members of the Transportation Committee.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) appreciates the opportunity to speak in support of this legislation, [S.B. No. 936](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO AUTOCYCLES AND THREE-WHEELED MOTORCYCLES.

This bill has two major components. The first component that DMV supports deals with the three-wheeled motorcycle restriction for a person's license. There are many people who can operate a three wheeled motorcycle (commonly called "trikes") but are not able to ride a two-wheeled motorcycle. All operators seeking a motorcycle endorsement on their license are required by law to take and pass a Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. The course is provided by DOT which, up until recently, did not offer the safety course for three-wheeled motorcycles, only for two-wheeled motorcycles. DOT now provides a course for three-wheeled motorcycles and favors adding a restriction to a person's motorcycle ("M") endorsement that would limit the operator to riding a three-wheeled motorcycle. The restriction would be added in DMV regulations as a "3" signifying the limitation to a three-wheeled motorcycle.

The second component of this bill concerns other types of new and unique three-wheeled vehicles (not the "trikes" discussed above) that are not currently defined in Connecticut statutes and therefore are not allowed to be sold or registered in Connecticut. While DMV is neutral on this aspect of the bill, we respectfully request that if any such "autocycle" language pass the Transportation Committee and the General Assembly, that this language contained in SB 936 become law. The reason is because our language will allow for the registration of these vehicles while at the same time not disrupt or change DMV's current or future registration processes. Other proposed legislation regarding autocycles would require DMV to create a new class of registration for these three-wheeled vehicles that would be costly and delay implementation of our new computer system upgrades.

The proposed changes modify the current definition of "motorcycle" and add a new definition of "autocycle." Such "autocycles" will be considered motorcycles under state law and registered as motorcycles, except they will be carved out of certain state statutes relating to motorcycles, including those dealing with motorcycle endorsement requirements ("M")

endorsement). Some of these three-wheeled vehicles are able to be classified under federal law as motorcycles but cannot be registered here in Connecticut because of the current definition of "motorcycle." These unique three-wheeled vehicles have driver and passenger cabins, steering wheels and foot pedals similar to an automobile. However, they are not considered automobiles because they do not meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for such a classification.

Several dealers here in Connecticut and some vehicle manufacturers have approached DMV to seek a way to have these unique three-wheeled vehicles able to be sold and registered here. Several surrounding states currently allow for the sale and registration of these vehicles and the Connecticut dealers feel this change in law will allow them to stay competitive. The language presented in this bill will allow Connecticut dealers to sell these unique three-wheeled vehicles and have their customers register them in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the three-wheeled motorcycle restriction and to explain our recommendations regarding the proposed changes to "autocycles" and similar three-wheeled vehicles.