



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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## Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles Acting Commissioner Dennis Murphy

Public Safety and Security Committee  
March 1, 2016

### HB 5406 - PERMITTING PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL TO USE BLUE LIGHTS

Good morning Chairmen Larson and Dargan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Zupkus and other members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in regards to House Bill 5406.

Bill 5406 would expand the number of individuals allowed to use blue lights while driving to the scene of an emergency. The expansion would include members of a volunteer ambulance association, volunteer canine search and rescue teams and volunteer underwater search and rescue teams. Volunteer Ambulance Associations are currently permitted the use of green flashing lights. The Department of Motor Vehicles does not take issue with the Public Safety Committee simply changing the color of flashing lights from green to blue. The DMV does not support an increase in the number of individuals allowed to use flashing lights and believes this may open the door for unregulated groups to request expansions of the flashing light permit section. This undermines public safety and the safety of first responders by diluting the effect of flashing lights on our roadways.

The Department of Motor Vehicles reminds members of the Public Safety Committee that the vehicles for which this section is being expanded are not permitted to use audible warning signals and they are not exempt from traffic laws (such as proceeding through red lights or exceeding the posted speed limits) in the same manner as police vehicles, fire apparatus and ambulances.