



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MITCH BOLINSKY
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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

CAPITOL PHONE: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
Mitch.Bolinsky@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
AGING COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative Mitch Bolinsky
Before the Public Safety and Security Committee on House Bill 5406
AN ACT PERMITTING PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL TO USE BLUE LIGHTS
March 1, 2016*

My thanks to the Honorable Co-Chairs, Senator Larson and Representative Dargan; Vice Chairs Senator Coleman and Representative Verrengia; Ranking Members Senator Guglielmo and Representative Zupkus; and the entire Public Safety and Security Committee for your consideration today of HB 5406. AN ACT PERMITTING PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL TO USE BLUE LIGHTS.

This is a very simple update to existing statute that does nothing more than recognize the changed landscape of modern first response in Connecticut. Under existing state Statute, CGS-14-96p, only "Active Firefighters and EMT" are covered and permitted to use emergency response lights. This statutory language is dated, written before K-9 and Dive Units were common in municipal first-response and rescue.

In current statute, Paragraph (4) today specifies allowance on motor vehicles of volunteer fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants, up to a total of five individuals per department.

The application should be updated to include use of blue flashing lights for responding Dive Team members and K-9 Search & Rescue members' personal vehicles as well, when dispatched as part of an emergency response effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have questions, please contact my office, anytime.

Respectfully,

Representative Mitch Bolinsky