



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 589

February Session, 2016

Senate Bill No. 346

Senate, April 12, 2016

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. COLEMAN of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR EVASION OF RESPONSIBILITY BY AN OPERATOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE CASE OF INJURY OR DAMAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-224 of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

4 (a) Each operator of a motor vehicle who is knowingly involved in
5 an accident which results in the death of any other person shall at once
6 stop and render such assistance as may be needed and shall give such
7 operator's name, address and operator's license number and
8 registration number to any officer or witness to the death of any
9 person, and if such operator of the motor vehicle causing the death of
10 any person is unable to give such operator's name, address and
11 operator's license number and registration number to any witness or
12 officer, for any reason or cause, such operator shall immediately report
13 such death of any person to a police officer, a constable, a state police

14 officer or an inspector of motor vehicles or at the nearest police
15 precinct or station, and shall state in such report the location and
16 circumstances of the accident causing the death of any person and
17 such operator's name, address, operator's license number and
18 registration number.

19 (b) (1) Each operator of a motor vehicle who is knowingly involved
20 in an accident which causes serious physical injury, as defined in
21 section 53a-3, to any other person shall at once stop and render such
22 assistance as may be needed and shall give such operator's name,
23 address and operator's license number and registration number to the
24 person injured or to any officer or witness to the serious physical
25 injury to person. If such operator of the motor vehicle causing the
26 serious physical injury of any person is unable to give such operator's
27 name, address and operator's license number and registration number
28 to the person injured or to any witness or officer, for any reason or
29 cause, such operator shall immediately report such serious physical
30 injury of any person to a police officer, a constable, a state police officer
31 or an inspector of motor vehicles or at the nearest police precinct or
32 station, and shall state in such report the location and circumstances of
33 the accident causing the serious physical injury of any person and such
34 operator's name, address, operator's license number and registration
35 number.

36 (2) Each operator of a motor vehicle who is knowingly involved in
37 an accident that causes physical injury, as defined in section 53a-3, to
38 any other person shall at once stop and render such assistance as may
39 be needed and shall give such operator's name, address and operator's
40 license number and registration number to the person injured or to any
41 officer or witness to the physical injury. If such operator of the motor
42 vehicle causing the physical injury is unable to give such operator's
43 name, address and operator's license number and registration number
44 to the person injured or to any witness or officer, for any reason or
45 cause, such operator shall immediately report such physical injury of
46 any person to a police officer, a constable, a state police officer or an
47 inspector of motor vehicles or at the nearest police precinct or station,

48 and shall state in such report the location and circumstances of the
49 accident causing the physical injury of any person and such operator's
50 name, address, operator's license number and registration number.

51 (3) Each operator of a motor vehicle who is knowingly involved in
52 an accident that causes injury or damage to property shall at once stop
53 and render such assistance as may be needed and shall give such
54 operator's name, address and operator's license number and
55 registration number to the owner of the injured or damaged property,
56 or to any officer or witness to the injury or damage to property, and if
57 such operator of the motor vehicle causing the injury or damage to any
58 property is unable to give such operator's name, address and
59 operator's license number and registration number to the owner of the
60 property injured or damaged, or to any witness or officer, for any
61 reason or cause, such operator shall immediately report such injury or
62 damage to property to a police officer, a constable, a state police officer
63 or an inspector of motor vehicles or at the nearest police precinct or
64 station, and shall state in such report the location and circumstances of
65 the accident causing the injury or damage to property and such
66 operator's name, address, operator's license number and registration
67 number.

68 (c) (1) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any public
69 highway for a wager or for any race or for the purpose of making a
70 speed record.

71 (2) No person shall (A) possess a motor vehicle under circumstances
72 manifesting an intent that it be used in a race or event prohibited
73 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, (B) act as a starter, timekeeper,
74 judge or spectator at a race or event prohibited under subdivision (1)
75 of this subsection, or (C) wager on the outcome of a race or event
76 prohibited under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

77 (d) Each person operating a motor vehicle who is knowingly
78 involved in an accident on a limited access highway which causes
79 damage to property only shall immediately move or cause his motor
80 vehicle to be moved from the traveled portion of the highway to an

81 untraveled area which is adjacent to the accident site if it is possible to
82 move the motor vehicle without risk of further damage to property or
83 injury to any person.

84 (e) No person who acts in accordance with the provisions of
85 subsection (d) of this section may be considered to have violated
86 subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

87 (f) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) or
88 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not more
89 than twenty thousand dollars or be imprisoned not less than two years
90 [nor] or more than twenty years or be both fined and imprisoned.

91 (g) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (2) or
92 (3) of subsection (b) of this section [or subsection (c) of this section]
93 shall be fined not less than seventy-five dollars [nor] or more than six
94 hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more than [one year] five years
95 or be both fined and imprisoned, and for any subsequent offense shall
96 be fined not less than one hundred dollars [nor] or more than one
97 thousand dollars or be imprisoned not more than [one year] five years
98 or be both fined and imprisoned.

99 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of this
100 section shall be fined not less than seventy-five dollars or more than
101 six hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more than one year or be
102 both fined and imprisoned, and for any subsequent offense shall be
103 fined not less than one hundred dollars or more than one thousand
104 dollars or be imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and
105 imprisoned.

106 (h) In addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to subsection (g) of
107 this section: (1) If any person is convicted of a violation of subdivision
108 (1) of subsection (c) of this section and the motor vehicle being
109 operated by such person at the time of the violation is registered to
110 such person, the court may order such motor vehicle to be impounded
111 for not more than thirty days and such person shall be responsible for
112 any fees or costs resulting from such impoundment; or (2) if any

113 person is convicted of a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of
114 this section and the motor vehicle being operated by such person at the
115 time of the violation is not registered to such person, the court may
116 fine such person not more than two thousand dollars, and for any
117 subsequent offense may fine such person not more than three
118 thousand dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	14-224
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JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 17 \$	FY 18 \$
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases the maximum prison sentence for failing to provide assistance in a motor vehicle accident from one to five years. To the extent that future offenders are sentenced to longer prison terms under the bill, potential costs for incarceration would result. On average, it costs the state \$61,320 (including benefits) to incarcerate an offender. There are currently no offenders incarcerated for violations of this statute.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 346*****AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR EVASION OF RESPONSIBILITY BY AN OPERATOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE CASE OF INJURY OR DAMAGE.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, a motor vehicle operator who is knowingly involved in an accident that causes physical injury to a person or injury or damage to property must (1) immediately stop and render any needed assistance and (2) give his or her name, address, and license and registration numbers to the injured person or property owner or any officer or witness to the injury. If the operator is unable to provide this information to any of those individuals, he or she must immediately report the injury or damage to a municipal or state police officer, constable, motor vehicle inspector, or at the nearest police precinct or station. The operator must state in the report the accident's location and circumstances and include the above required information.

This bill extends, from one year to five years, the maximum prison sentence a court may impose for violating these provisions or committing a subsequent offense. It retains the current fines that the court may impose for such violations (between \$75 and \$600 for a first offense and between \$100 and \$1,000 for a subsequent offense.) By law, the court may impose a fine, prison sentence, or both, for such violations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 45 Nay 0 (03/30/2016)