



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Michael R. Bzdyra

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 18, 2016

**H.B. No. 5625 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE, VIA INTERNET AUCTION, OF
LICENSE PLATES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.**

Good morning Chairmen Fonfara and Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Davis and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 5625.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has been before the Transportation Committee several times to testify against this proposal. Public Act 12-81 required DMV to conduct a study regarding the feasibility of selling DMV issued license plates through an internet auction system. This report was issued on January 13, 2014 to the General Assembly's Transportation Committee. The comprehensive report provided research and analysis of other states' activities in this area, reviewed DMV's current registration processes and systems and recommended that such a program not be developed.

Public Act 15-5, Section 221 requires DMV to, yet again, conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a web-based auctioning system on DMV's website that would permit the sale of license plate numbers. This study is to be submitted to the General Assembly's Transportation Committee and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee by January 1, 2017.

As in years past, a major reason for DMV's opposition to this proposal is the implementation of the CIVLS system. Today, DMV continues to work with the vendor, 3M to correct defects. The establishment of a web based auction system as set forth in bill 5625 would result in sweeping and costly programming changes for DMV. The bill also requires DMV to conduct weekly "lotteries," which would require dedicated staff and resources, as an incentive to participate in the auction process.

DMV respectfully requests the Finance Committee reject this bill and welcomes the opportunity to discuss this issue further once the 2017 study has been submitted to the committees of cognizance.