



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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<http://ct.gov/dmv>



Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles Deputy Commissioner Michael Bzdyra

Transportation Committee
March 16, 2016

HB 5041- An Act Concerning Privatization of the Department of Motor Vehicles

Good morning Chairmen Guerrera and Maynard, Ranking Members Boucher and O'Dea and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 5041.

The last year has been a very challenging one for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Since the launch of CIVLS we have encountered system defects, long wait times and understandably many very frustrated customers. Throughout this time our employees have worked tremendously hard over very long hours to improve the customer experience at DMV.

The DMV has 603 full time employees and 100 part time positions supported through the Special Transportation Fund as of January 2016. These employees are members of five contractual bargaining units. Bill 5041 does not give any consideration to the contractual language that currently prohibits the contracting out of services which would eliminate bargaining unit jobs.

As drafted, the legislation does not specify which DMV functions would be subject to the privatization process. It appears to require that we submit to this process for everything we do at DMV, including our core governmental functions, which would result in the transition of all DMV services to the private sector.

DMV is statutorily defined as the licensing authority of the state which means it is responsible for the administering of driver licensing laws. Connecticut is Real ID Compliant, which means our residents' licenses are accepted for domestic air travel. The federal Real ID Act requires that DMV retain control of licensing and identity decisions. Many of the Connecticut statutory requirements of DMV would prevent the department from privatizing services. Although DMV is thought of by many as simply a place to get a license or register a vehicle, it administers a complex set of federal and state mandates. The DMV issues identity documents relied on by the US Passport office, Transportation Security Administration and others; it also issues vehicle titles, oversees weigh stations, ensures highway safety by administering licensing sanctions for moving violations, including the state's ignition interlock device system and much more.

DMV has had a long partnership with AAA and is hoping to expand the services provided to include registration renewals. The expansion of services is not based on any cost saving measure but a matter of providing a convenience to our customers. This expansion of services will not mean a decrease in the number of DMV employees. Although DMV is open to other entities that may want to provide registration services we cannot lose sight of public safety and security concerns associated with Real ID and licensure.