



Town of Manchester

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Testimony- Transportation Committee

John Rainaldi, CCMC, CCMA II, RCG

Director of Assessment & Collection

Town of Manchester

February 25, 2016

Members of the Transportation Committee:

As Director of Assessment & Collection for the Town of Manchester, I respectfully request that you oppose HB 5055, An Act Decreasing Wait Times at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Under current practice, taxpayers who owe delinquent motor vehicle taxes, or delinquent parking tickets, are barred from re-registering their motor vehicles until the delinquency is paid, and the municipality in which that delinquency occurred electronically files a release (known as a "take off") with the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (CT DMV). Once the municipality files the release, the taxpayer can then re-register.

The practice of barring delinquent taxpayers from re-registering their vehicles is the single best method Connecticut municipalities have to make sure that many of our motor vehicle taxpayers pay their tax bills. While there are other tools to enforce collection, none work nearly as well, and the other methods require additional expenses for the taxpayer or the town, or are far more punitive for the taxpayer.

If the practice of barring delinquent taxpayers from re-registering were to end, every municipality in Connecticut would undoubtedly see a loss in their motor vehicle tax collections. It is difficult to estimate how much of a loss this would be, but in Manchester, if our motor vehicle collection rate were to decrease by 5% (which seems a conservative amount), this would equal a loss of revenue to the Town of roughly \$600,000 per year. The Town would have to factor this loss into our annual budget. This would result in the taxpayers who are not delinquent effectively having to subsidize the taxpayers who are delinquent. Removing the requirement for the CT DMV to bar delinquent taxpayers from re-registering their vehicles can only hurt each municipality, its taxpayers and residents. It cannot help.

While Connecticut's Tax Collectors are sympathetic to the issue of wait times for customers at the CT DMV, we are encouraged by the recent report that the average wait time has significantly decreased since August 2015. We hope and believe that this trend will continue.

Therefore, I ask you for your support in rectifying these issues, and thank you again for your interest in this topic.

Respectfully,

John Rainaldi
Director of Assessment & Collection
Town of Manchester

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