



CONNECTICUT
TRIAL LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

Raised Bill 468
Public Hearing: 3-14-18

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TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
FROM: CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)
DATE: MARCH 14, 2018

RE: SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL 468 – AAC SERVICE OF CIVIL PROCESS ON A MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR OR THE OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

The CTLA **strongly supports raised bill 468** which makes small technical changes to the state's service of process mechanism where a hard to locate individual is also unlicensed or driving an unregistered motor vehicle.

CTLA members have noticed recently that while the statute currently allows for service of process on the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in cases involving licensed and registered Connecticut and out-of-state drivers, because of an issue with the language in the statute this avenue is not open if the driver is unlicensed or their vehicle is unregistered.

The underlying statute was passed to allow for service of process on hard to locate tortfeasors in a motor vehicle case. The mechanism by which this is done allows an individual, injured by a driver who then cannot be found for in-person service, to perfect that service by delivering a copy to the Commissioner of the DMV.

The purpose of this provision in the law is to ensure that people injured by drivers while in the state of Connecticut have a guaranteed way of getting redress for their injuries in a court of law. Often the insurance company of the driver is already notified and working with an injured victim to set things right after an accident even if the driver himself is not available for service. There comes a time when the insurance company must have an officially served complaint to go further in the process. This would ensure that could happen even if the driver was unlicensed or their vehicle was unregistered.

The CTLA has been in contact with the Commissioner of the DMV and is working with him and his staff to ensure the exact language which is voted out of committee will fulfill the stated purpose of the bill while not having unintended consequences for the Department or Courts.

While technical in nature, the change requested is needed for injured victim in Connecticut who is simply attempting to be made whole after an unfortunate motor vehicle accident.

WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO SUPPORT RB 468. Thank you.