



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles

Environment Committee Public Hearing

February 23, 2018

**HB 5129 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "SAVE OUR LAKES" NUMBER PLATE TO
COMBAT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND CYANOBACTERIA BLOOMS.**

Good morning Chairmen Kennedy, Miner and Demicco, Ranking Member Harding and distinguished members of the Environment Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 5129.

Every legislative session the Department of Motor Vehicles receives requests for new plate designs. Special interest plates that are established in statute through the legislative process are distributed by DMV. DMV initially funds the production of these plates, and attempts to recoup the production costs, which are approximately \$3,800, through the registration process.

While many organizations believe plates are a great way to promote a cause or raise funds, today there are dozens of special interest plates with less than 50 active registrations and in some cases it has cost the state more money to produce a plate than what is collected through registrations for that plate.

Another option would be to issue "Save Our Lakes" plates through a qualifying organization, as authorized in section 14-19a of the Connecticut General Statutes. This statute and the accompanying regulations allow an organization that receives at least 400 registration applications to have plates made that raise funds for that organization. This ensures that production costs will be covered through the registration process. This would not require legislation as the authorizing statute already is in place. The DMV respectfully requests the requirement of 400 committed "Save Our Lakes" commemorative plates be met through the process set forth in section 14-19a.