
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7378

AN ACT CONCERNING NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE AND ILLEGAL RACING.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the maximum fine and prison sentence for causing someone else's death through the negligent operation of a motor vehicle, regardless of the type of vehicle. Under current law, such negligent operation of a (1) motor vehicle, other than a commercial vehicle, is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, up to six months in prison, or both or (2) commercial motor vehicle is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500, up to six months in prison, or both. Under the bill, such negligent operation of any motor vehicle is punishable by a fine of up to \$3,500, up to three years in prison, or both.

The bill also increases the penalties for driving a motor vehicle on a public road for purposes of betting, racing, or making a speed record. Under current law, a first offense is punishable by a fine of \$75 to \$600, up to one year in prison, or both; and any subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of \$100 to \$1,000, up to one year in prison, or both. (By law, a subsequent offense is defined as one committed within 10 years after the arrest date that resulted in a previous conviction for the same violation (CGS § 14-1(84)).) Under the bill:

1. the minimum fine is raised to \$150 for a first offense and \$300 for any subsequent offense and
2. the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner must require anyone convicted of such driving to attend an operator's retraining program.

By law, a person's driver's license is suspended if he or she fails to

attend the operator's retraining program, and the suspension lasts until the person completes the program (Conn. Agencies Regs. §14-111g-2(e)).

Additionally, the bill makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 925 (File 527), reported favorably by the Transportation Committee, establishes an advanced operator's retraining program that a driver must attend if he or she commits another moving or suspension violation within 36 months after completing the existing operator's retraining program. By law, suspension violations include (1) causing someone else's death through the negligent operation of a motor vehicle and (2) driving a motor vehicle on a public road for purposes of betting, racing, or making a speed record (CGS § 14-111g(a)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 38 Nay 0 (04/09/2019)