

**Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: HB-6376

AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS AS PEACE

Title: OFFICERS.

Vote Date: 3/19/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/14/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Cara Christine Pavalock-D'Amato, 77th Dist.

Rep. Kurt Vail, 52nd Dist.

Rep. Rick L. Hayes, 51st Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill expands the definition of peace officer to include DMV motor vehicle inspectors who have been certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). By law, POST may certify police officers, police training schools, and law enforcement instructors. When on duty, motor vehicle inspectors have the same authority to enforce motor vehicle laws as police have in their respective jurisdictions, including making arrests or issuing citations for violations.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Judeen Wrinn, Acting Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles](#)

She testifies that Motor vehicle inspectors receive the same training as police officers, and carry the same equipment. She states that this bill does not look to expand the authority of inspectors, simply to make it safer for them to do their jobs. Lastly, she testifies that inspectors now can use physical force if necessary and they may detain persons wanted by other law enforcement agencies.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Cara Pavalock-D'Amato, State Representative](#)

Rep. Pavalock-D'Amato testified on the background behind the bill; that DMV inspectors tend to be required to enforce laws similar to that of a certified police officer. She states that for many bills DMV inspectors were left out because they are not "Peace Officers". She makes it clear that this bill does not expand the arrest powers of DMV Officers.

Donald Bridge Jr., Lieutenant, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

He testifies that being called Peace Officers will not change the authority of a DMV inspector. He then cites specific statutes that neglected to mention Motor vehicle inspectors, only peace officer's and those statutes were since amended to include inspectors. By including Motor Vehicle inspectors as Peace Officers you ensure this will not have to happen again.

Stafford Browne Jr., Sergeant, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

He testifies to the training that he went through, mirroring that of a certified police officer. That he affected hundreds of commercial and passenger motor vehicle stops during his tenure. He states that changing this definition in statute does not change authority of an Inspector.

Garfield Green, Lieutenant, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

He testifies to the training that Motor Vehicle Inspectors have to go through, mirroring that of a police officer. He states that most police officers die or get injured from motor vehicle related accidents, and that inspectors put their lives at risk to protect drivers on the road, and how an inspector, who was a friend of his, died in the line of duty. He states that this bill does not affect the authority of an inspector, and would cost the state no money. Lastly, he states that currently several groups who are not POST trained are listed as peace officers.

Liz Vera, Inspector, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

She testifies about how she graduated from the Police Academy, and received POST training. She states how she wears a police uniform and carries a badge and gun. She states how her and her colleagues risk their lives every day, and they should be afforded the rights and protections to do their jobs.

Paul Lemieux, Peace Officer, Farmington Police Department

He testifies that he works part-time as a peace officer in Farmington, and as a Motor Vehicles Inspector. When he works in Farmington he's considered a Peace Officer, but he is not when he's working as an inspector. He testifies that this legislation would also permit Motor Vehicle inspectors to implement highway tolls.

William Vieweg, Former Police Officer, Town of Enfield

He testifies that he worked with several Motor Vehicles inspectors, and found them to be highly trained and professional. He also states that inspectors must be trained as police officers. He states that these inspectors are put in harm's way often and should have the same protections as peace officers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

Reported by: Assistant Clerk Don Cretella

Date: 4/3/19