



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Office of the
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Hearing – February 13, 2019 Transportation Committee

**Testimony Submitted by Richard Andreski
Bureau Chief of Public Transportation
Department of Transportation**

S.B. 66 – An Act Concerning the Nonemergency Transportation of Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Confined to a Stretcher.

S.B. 66 would allow livery permit holders to transport a person with physical disabilities in the prone position through the use of a stretcher van. The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is opposed to this bill as medical livery is currently licensed and inspected by the Department of Public Health (DPH). Currently, the DPH Office of Emergency Medical Services inspects and regulates the full spectrum of stretcher vans as well as traditional ambulances, and handles all compliance issues and complaints.

In order for Livery permit holders to register vehicles to be used to transport people through the use of a stretcher van, CTDOT would need to develop a complete set of vehicle specifications and promulgate new regulations for compliance purposes as well as for customer safety. An inspection would also be required for these vehicles. The bill's language does not specify whether or not CTDOT would be responsible for the additional inspection required.

If CTDOT would be responsible for inspections, it would need to create new regulations to guide inspectors during vehicle inspections. It may also be necessary to hire an additional inspector and an additional Licensing and Applications Analyst due to the additional vehicle inspections and to handle complaints and violations.

CTDOT is not currently aware of any reasons that would require Livery permit operators to take over part or all of the transport of persons with physical disabilities using a stretcher van from the operators licensed through DPH Office of Emergency Medical Services.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov/860.594.3013) or Alicia Leite (alicia.leite@ct.gov/860.594.3015) at the Department of Transportation.