OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7105

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON STATE PARKWAYS.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a $500 fine per violation for anyone who operates a commercial motor vehicle on a state parkway on which the vehicle is not allowed. The law generally prohibits commercial motor vehicles from entering and using state parkways.

The bill requires violators to follow the Superior Court’s Centralized Infractions Bureau’s procedures established to handle payments or not guilty pleas (e.g., the fine may be paid by mail).

The bill also makes a conforming change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Parkways

By law, a “parkway” means any state highway receiving special treatment in landscaping and marginal planting, especially designed for, and devoted exclusively to, the use and accommodation of noncommercial motor vehicle traffic and to which access may be allowed only at highway intersections designated by the Department of Transportation commissioner and designed to eliminate cross traffic of vehicles (CGA § 13a-26(a)).

The law allows certain taxicabs, vanpool vehicles, and certain buses (e.g., service buses for students with special needs) to use the Merritt and Wilbur Cross parkways (CGS § 13a-25(f)).

Centralized Infractions Bureau’s procedures

By law, under the bureau’s procedures, a Connecticut resident who
commits an infraction or certain violations may plead not guilty or pay the established fine and any additional fee or cost. Violators who are nonresidents may do the same if they are residents of a state that has reciprocity with Connecticut’s Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner regarding driver’s license suspension. Otherwise, the law prohibits a nonresident violator from pleading or paying by mail but requires him or her to, instead, post a bond with the local police issuing the summons in the amount of the fine and any additional fees or costs (CGS § 51-164n).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 35  Nay 3  (03/20/2019)