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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6569**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows municipalities to impose, by ordinance, a fine of up to \$250 on owners of motor vehicles that are subject to local property tax but not registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Municipalities may only impose this fine on vehicles eligible for registration and required to be registered under the state's motor vehicle laws, and unpaid fines constitute liens on real property. The bill establishes administrative procedures for the fines, including requiring municipalities imposing the fines to have citation hearing procedures.

The bill restarts and modifies the motor vehicle registration task force, which never met and terminated on January 1, 2020. Among other things, it (1) changes the appointing authorities for task force members from the legislative leaders to the leaders of the Transportation Committee and (2) extends the task force's deadlines.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2021, except that the task force changes are effective upon passage.

#### **MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES**

The bill's authorization to impose a fee by ordinance applies regardless of any provisions of the general statutes or a special act, municipal charter, or ordinance.

Under the bill, police officers or anyone authorized by the municipality's chief executive officer may issue a citation to any person who fails to register a motor vehicle. Municipalities imposing these fines must also adopt a citation hearing procedure, in accordance with state law, through which the fine must be imposed.

A municipality must deposit the fines it collects into its general fund or in a special fund it designates.

Under the bill, unpaid fines constitute a lien on the motor vehicle owner's real property. These liens must be continued, recorded, and released in the same way the law requires for continuing, recording, and releasing property tax liens.

### **MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION TASK FORCE**

The motor vehicle registration task force is charged with studying compliance with motor vehicle registration laws and making recommendations to prevent Connecticut residents from registering motor vehicles out-of-state.

The bill modifies the appointing authorities for the task force's appointed members, generally changing them from the legislative leaders to the Transportation Committee leaders, as show in Table 1. As under current law, the task force also includes two gubernatorial appointees and the DMV and emergency services and public protection commissioners, or their designees.

**Table 1: Appointment Authority Changes**

<i><b>Number and Qualifications</b></i>	<i><b>Appointing Authority</b></i>	
	<i><b>Current Law</b></i>	<i><b>Bill</b></i>
Two members, one of whom is a municipal tax assessor association member	House speaker	Transportation Committee House chairperson
Two members, one of whom is a municipal police chief	Senate president pro tempore	Transportation Committee Senate chairperson
One member who is a municipal tax assessor that serves a municipality with at least 75,000 residents	House majority leader	Transportation Committee House vice-chairperson
One member who is a member of a police department that serves a municipality with at	Senate majority leader	Transportation Committee Senate vice-

least 75,000 residents		chairperson
One member who is a member of a police department that serves a municipality with less than 75,000 residents	House minority leader	Transportation Committee House ranking member
One member who is a municipal tax assessor that serves a municipality with less than 75,000 residents	Senate minority leader	Transportation Committee Senate ranking member

Under the bill, appointing authorities must make appointments to the task force by September 1, 2021. The bill requires the Transportation Committee chairpersons, rather than the House Speaker and Senate President Pro Tempore, to jointly select the task force's chairpersons from among its members. The selected chairpersons must schedule the first meeting and hold it by October 1, 2021.

The bill requires that the task force (1) submit a report on its findings to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 2022, and (2) terminate on the date it submits the report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/26/2021)