



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 437

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6569

House of Representatives, April 14, 2021

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14 of public act 19-119 is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to study compliance with motor
4 vehicle registration laws and make recommendations to prevent
5 Connecticut residents from registering motor vehicles in another state
6 while residing in Connecticut.

7 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) Two appointed by the [speaker of the House of Representatives]
9 House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General
10 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, one
11 of whom is a member of an association that represents municipal tax
12 assessors;

13 (2) Two appointed by the [president pro tempore of the] Senate

14 chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
15 having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, one of whom is
16 a municipal police chief;

17 (3) One appointed by the [majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives] House vice-chairperson of the joint standing
19 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
20 relating to transportation, who is a municipal tax assessor that serves a
21 municipality with seventy-five thousand residents or more;

22 (4) One appointed by the [majority leader of the] Senate vice-
23 chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
24 having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who is a
25 member of a municipal police department that serves a municipality
26 with seventy-five thousand residents or more;

27 (5) One appointed by the [minority leader of the House of
28 Representatives] House ranking member of the joint standing
29 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
30 relating to transportation, who is a member of a municipal police
31 department that serves a municipality with less than seventy-five
32 thousand residents;

33 (6) One appointed by the [minority leader of the] Senate ranking
34 member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
35 having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who is a
36 municipal tax assessor that serves a municipality with less than seventy-
37 five thousand residents;

38 (7) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or the commissioner's
39 designee;

40 (8) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
41 or the commissioner's designee; and

42 (9) Two persons appointed by the Governor.

43 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),

44 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
45 of the General Assembly.

46 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
47 [thirty days after the effective date of this section] September 1, 2021.
48 Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

49 (e) The [speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
50 pro tempore of the Senate] chairpersons of the joint standing committee
51 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
52 transportation shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among
53 the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first
54 meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later [than sixty days
55 after the effective date of this section] October 1, 2021.

56 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
57 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
58 transportation shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

59 (g) Not later than January 1, [2020] 2022, the task force shall submit a
60 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
61 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
62 relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of section
63 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
64 that it submits such report or January 1, [2020] 2022, whichever is later.

65 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Notwithstanding any
66 provision of the general statutes or special act, municipal charter or
67 ordinance, any municipality may, by ordinance adopted by its
68 legislative body, establish a fine to be imposed against any owner of a
69 motor vehicle that is subject to property tax pursuant to subsection (g)
70 of section 12-71b of the general statutes who fails to register such motor
71 vehicle with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, provided (1) such
72 motor vehicle is eligible for registration and required to be registered
73 under the provisions of chapter 246 of the general statutes, and (2) the
74 amount of such fine shall be not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

75 (b) Any police officer or other person authorized by the chief
 76 executive officer of the municipality may issue a citation to any person
 77 who fails to register such motor vehicle. Any municipality that adopts
 78 an ordinance pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall also adopt
 79 a citation hearing procedure pursuant to section 7-152c of the general
 80 statutes by which procedure such fine shall be imposed.

81 (c) Any fine collected by a municipality pursuant to this section shall
 82 be deposited into the general fund of the municipality or in any special
 83 fund designated by the municipality.

84 (d) Any unpaid fine imposed by a municipality pursuant to the
 85 provisions of an ordinance adopted under subsection (a) of this section
 86 shall constitute a lien upon the real property of the owner of the motor
 87 vehicle. Any such lien shall be continued, recorded and released in the
 88 manner provided by the general statutes for continuing, recording and
 89 releasing property tax liens.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 19-119, Sec. 14
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill results in a revenue gain to municipalities that choose to levy fines (of up to \$250) against owners of improperly registered motor vehicles. Any revenue gain would depend on the amount a municipality sets for the fine, and the number of offenders it is able to levy the fine against.

In FY 20, there were 78 violations for failure to register an out of state vehicle within 60 days. If municipalities had levied fines for these violations, under the bill's provisions, they would have experienced a revenue gain of approximately \$20,000.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of fines issued.

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>Number and Qualifications</i>	<i>Appointing Authority</i>	
	<i>Current Law</i>	<i>Bill</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	Senate majority	Transportation Committee Senate vice-

serves a municipality with at least 75,000 residents	leader	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)