



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 489

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 982

Senate, April 15, 2021

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. HASKELL of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-36g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) Each person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license issued
4 on and after August 1, 2008, and who is sixteen or seventeen years of
5 age shall comply with the following requirements:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the period
7 of six months after the date of issuance of such license, such person shall
8 not transport more than (A) such person's parents or legal guardian, at
9 least one of whom holds a motor vehicle operator's license, [or] (B) one
10 passenger who is a driving instructor licensed by the Department of
11 Motor Vehicles, or a person twenty years of age or older who has been
12 licensed to operate, for at least four years preceding the time of being
13 transported, a motor vehicle of the same class as the motor vehicle being
14 operated and who has not had his or her motor vehicle operator's license

15 suspended by the commissioner during such four-year period, or (C)
16 such person's sibling to or from school;

17 (2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the period
18 beginning six months after the date of issuance of such license and
19 ending one year after the date of issuance of such license, such person
20 shall not transport any passenger other than as permitted under
21 subdivision (1) of this subsection and any additional member or
22 members of such person's immediate family;

23 (3) No such person shall operate any motor vehicle for which a public
24 passenger endorsement, as defined in section 14-1, is required in
25 accordance with the provisions of section 14-44 or a vanpool vehicle, as
26 defined in section 14-1;

27 (4) No such person shall transport more passengers in a motor vehicle
28 than the number of seat safety belts permanently installed in such motor
29 vehicle;

30 (5) No such person issued a motorcycle endorsement shall transport
31 any passenger on a motorcycle for a period of six months after the date
32 of issuance;

33 (6) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no such person
34 shall operate a motor vehicle on any highway, as defined in section 14-
35 1, at or after 11:00 p.m. until and including 5:00 a.m. of the following day
36 unless (A) such person is traveling for his or her employment or school
37 or religious activities, or (B) there is a medical necessity for such travel;
38 and

39 (7) No such person shall transport any passenger on an autocycle
40 other than as permitted under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

41 (b) A person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license and who is
42 sixteen or seventeen years of age shall not be subject to the restrictions
43 on the number or type of passengers specified in subdivision (1) or (2)
44 of subsection (a) of this section, or to the restrictions specified in
45 subdivision (6) of said subsection (a), if such person is: An active

46 member of a volunteer fire company or department, a volunteer
47 ambulance service or company or an emergency medical service
48 organization and such person is responding to, or returning from, an
49 emergency or is carrying out such person's duties as such active
50 member; or an assigned driver in a Safe Ride program sponsored by the
51 American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America or other national public
52 service organization.

53 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
54 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection
55 (a) of this section. Such regulations may provide exceptions to the
56 provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section for a single
57 parent under the age of eighteen for the purposes of transporting the
58 child of such parent to day care, child care and education facilities,
59 medical appointments, and for such other purposes as may be
60 determined by the commissioner.

61 (d) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this
62 section shall be deemed to have committed an infraction. The
63 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the motor vehicle
64 operator's license of any person who violates the provisions of
65 subsection (a) of this section for a period of thirty days for a first
66 violation, and for a period of six months or until such person attains the
67 age of eighteen years, whichever is longer, for a second violation.

68 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the provisions of
69 this section in effect July 31, 2008, shall be applicable to any person who
70 is sixteen or seventeen years of age and who has been issued a motor
71 vehicle operator's license prior to August 1, 2008.

72 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 14-12 of the general statutes
73 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
74 *October 1, 2021*):

75 (b) To obtain a motor vehicle registration, except as provided in
76 subsection (c) of this section, the owner shall [file in the office of] submit
77 to the commissioner an application signed by [him] such owner and

78 containing such information and proof of ownership as the
79 commissioner may require. The application shall be [made on blanks
80 furnished by the commissioner. The blanks shall be] in such form and
81 contain such provisions and information as the commissioner may
82 determine. The commissioner shall permit an owner of a motor home or
83 recreational vehicle to register such motor home or recreational vehicle
84 using a mailing address with a post office box in the municipality where
85 such owner resides provided such owner uses such motor home or
86 recreational vehicle as a place of permanent residence.

87 (c) (1) The commissioner may, for the more efficient administration
88 of the commissioner's duties, appoint licensed dealers meeting
89 qualifications established by the commissioner pursuant to regulations
90 adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to issue new
91 registrations for passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, campers, camp
92 trailers, commercial trailers, service buses, school buses, trucks or other
93 vehicle types as determined by the commissioner when they are sold by
94 a licensed dealer. The commissioner shall charge such dealer a fee of ten
95 dollars for each new dealer issue form furnished for the purposes of this
96 subsection. A person purchasing a motor vehicle or other vehicle type
97 as determined by the commissioner from a dealer so appointed and
98 registering such vehicle pursuant to this section shall file an application
99 with the dealer and pay, to the dealer, a fee in accordance with the
100 provisions of section 14-49. The commissioner shall prescribe the time
101 and manner in which the application and fee shall be transmitted to the
102 commissioner.

103 (2) The commissioner may authorize a business that meets
104 qualifications established by the commissioner and has a fleet of one
105 hundred or more motor vehicles registered in the state, to electronically
106 register or transfer registrations for any motor vehicle it acquires. Such
107 business shall pay all applicable registration and title fees for each such
108 registration.

109 (3) The commissioner shall permit a licensed dealer appointed
110 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to electronically register a

111 motor vehicle that has a gross vehicle weight rating in excess of twenty-
112 six thousand pounds and is used or operated in intrastate commerce.
113 Such dealer shall pay all applicable registration and title fees for each
114 such registration.

115 Sec. 3. Section 14-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
116 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

117 (a) Any person who has been arrested by an officer for a violation of
118 any provision of any statute relating to motor vehicles may be released,
119 upon [his] such person's own recognizance, by such officer in [his] such
120 officer's discretion, unless such violation is of a provision relating to
121 driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or
122 using a motor vehicle without permission of the owner or evading
123 responsibility for personal injury or property damage or involves the
124 death or serious injury of another, in which cases such person shall not
125 be released on his or her own recognizance.

126 (b) If any person so arrested or summoned wilfully fails to appear for
127 any scheduled court appearance at the time and place assigned, or if any
128 person charged with an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle,
129 or with a motor vehicle violation specified in section 51-164n, fails to
130 pay the fine and any additional fee imposed or send in his or her plea of
131 not guilty by the answer date or wilfully fails to appear for any
132 scheduled court appearance which may be required, or if any person
133 fails to pay any surcharge imposed under section 13b-70, any fee
134 imposed under section 51-56a or any cost imposed under section 54-143
135 or 54-143a, a report of such failure shall be sent to the commissioner by
136 the court having jurisdiction. The provisions of this section shall be
137 extended to any nonresident owner or operator of a motor vehicle
138 residing in any state, the proper authorities of which agree with the
139 commissioner to revoke, until personal appearance to answer the charge
140 against [him, his] such person, such person's motor vehicle registration
141 certificate or operator's license, upon [his] such person's failure to
142 appear for any scheduled court appearance. Any infractions or
143 violations, for which a report of failure to appear has been sent to the

144 commissioner under this subsection, that have not otherwise been
145 disposed of shall be dismissed by operation of law seven years after
146 such report was sent. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-111,
147 the commissioner shall not suspend the operator's license of any person
148 solely for failure to pay any fines, fees or other charges associated with
149 an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle.

150 (c) The commissioner may enter into reciprocal agreements with the
151 proper authorities of other states, which agreements may include
152 provisions for the suspension or revocation of licenses and registrations
153 of residents and nonresidents who fail to appear for trial at the time and
154 place assigned.

155 (d) Any judgment under this section shall be opened upon the
156 payment to the clerk of the Superior Court of a fee of forty dollars. Such
157 filing fee may be waived by the court.

158 (e) In addition, the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall
159 apply to sections 29-322, 29-349 and 29-351.

160 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 14-253a of the general statutes is
161 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
162 *1, 2021*):

163 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications
164 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from (1)
165 any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; (2) any person with
166 disabilities; (3) any parent or guardian of any person who is blind or any
167 person with disabilities, if such person is under eighteen years of age at
168 the time of application; (4) any parent or guardian of any person who is
169 blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is unable to request
170 or complete an application; and (5) any organization which meets
171 criteria established by the commissioner and which certifies to the
172 commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for which a placard is
173 requested is primarily used to transport persons who are blind or
174 persons with disabilities. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
175 section, on and after October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept

176 applications for special license plates, but shall accept renewal
177 applications for such plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.
178 No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section
179 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's
180 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions
181 of section 1-1h. The commissioner is authorized to adopt regulations for
182 the issuance of placards to persons who, by reason of hardship, do not
183 hold or cannot obtain an operator's license or identification card. The
184 commissioner shall maintain a record of each placard issued to any such
185 person. Such applications and renewal applications shall be on a form
186 prescribed by the commissioner. The application and renewal
187 application shall include: (A) Certification by a licensed physician, a
188 physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed in
189 accordance with the provisions of chapter 378, or a member of the driver
190 training unit for persons with disabilities established pursuant to
191 section 14-11b, that the applicant meets the definition of a person with a
192 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23
193 CFR Section 1235.2; or (B) certification by a psychiatrist who is
194 employed by, or under contract with, the United States Department of
195 Veterans Affairs that the applicant (i) is a veteran, as defined in
196 subsection (a) of section 27-103, who has post-traumatic stress disorder
197 certified as service-connected by the United States Department of
198 Veterans Affairs, and (ii) meets the definition of a person with a
199 disability which limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23
200 CFR Section 1235.2. In the case of persons who are blind, the application
201 or renewal application shall include certification of legal blindness
202 made by the Department of Aging and Disability Services, an
203 ophthalmologist or an optometrist. Any person who makes a
204 certification required by this subsection shall sign the application or
205 renewal application under penalty of false statement pursuant to section
206 53a-157b. The commissioner, in said commissioner's discretion, may
207 accept the discharge papers of a disabled veteran, as defined in section
208 14-254, in lieu of such certification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
209 may require additional certification at the time of the original
210 application or at any time thereafter. If a person who has been requested

211 to submit additional certification fails to do so within thirty days of the
212 request, or if such additional certification is deemed by the
213 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the
214 commissioner may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or
215 revoke such special license plate or placard. The commissioner shall not
216 issue more than one placard per applicant, except the commissioner
217 shall issue one placard to each applicant who is a parent or guardian of
218 any person who is blind or any person with disabilities, [if such person
219 is under eighteen at the time of application,] provided no more than two
220 such placards shall be issued on behalf of such person. The fee for the
221 issuance of a temporary removable windshield placard shall be five
222 dollars. Any person whose application has been denied or whose special
223 license plate or placard has been suspended or revoked shall be afforded
224 an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of
225 chapter 54.

226 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) The driver of a vehicle shall
227 yield the right-of-way to a motor bus traveling in the same direction
228 when such motor bus gives an appropriate signal in the manner
229 provided in section 14-244 of the general statutes to reenter the flow of
230 traffic. Violation of this section shall be an infraction.

231 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 14-275 of the general statutes is
232 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
233 *1, 2021*):

234 (c) (1) Each school bus shall be equipped with special automatic,
235 electrically-operated flashing stop signals, which shall be independent
236 and separate from the braking, stop and tail lights of standard
237 equipment. Such flashing lights may include automatic traffic signalling
238 devices showing red and amber lights and shall be so located that
239 adequate warning will be afforded to both oncoming and overtaking
240 traffic, except that each school bus manufactured on and after October
241 1, 1984, and registered for use in this state shall be equipped with an
242 eight-light warning system, showing two red flashing stop signals and
243 two amber flashing warning signals on the front and rear of the bus, and

244 a stop semaphore. The commissioner may adopt standards for an eight-
245 light warning system and standards and specifications for the
246 construction of school buses and for equipment to be maintained on
247 school buses consistent with the provisions of this section, sections [14-
248 275] 14-275a to 14-281, inclusive.

249 (2) Both public and private owners of school buses shall maintain a
250 record of such kinds of repairs made to such buses as the commissioner
251 may require and such work record shall be available at all times to the
252 commissioner and the commissioner's designated assistants. All such
253 maintenance records shall be retained for a period of two years.

254 (3) Each school bus shall be equipped with emergency lighting
255 equipment as provided by section 14-97a, with a defrosting device as
256 provided by section 14-97, with a system of mirrors as provided in the
257 Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Section 571.111, as amended, or
258 with an outside mirror as provided by section 14-99 and a system of
259 crossover mirrors designed and mounted so as to give the driver a view
260 of the road from the front bumper forward to a point where direct
261 observation is possible and along the left and right sides of the bus, with
262 a signalling device as provided by section 14-101, and with chain
263 nonskid devices for immediate use on at least one outside or inside rear
264 tire on each side or tires designed to prevent skidding on all rear wheels
265 when weather and highway conditions require such use.

266 (4) Commencing February 1, 1974, each new school bus with a vehicle
267 air brake system shall be so equipped that the brake system is operated
268 from a separate air reservoir tank other than the air reservoir tank used
269 to operate any other compressed air or vacuum operated devices with
270 which the school bus may be equipped.

271 (5) The seating requirements of section 14-273 shall be observed.

272 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-98, school buses
273 may be equipped with tires incorporating a metal nonskid device
274 during the period from October fifteenth to April thirtieth, inclusive.

275 (7) Each school bus that is model year 2007 or newer shall be
276 equipped with a crossing control arm mounted on the right end of the
277 front bumper.

278 (8) Each school bus that is model year 2022 or newer shall be
279 equipped with an extended stop arm. For the purposes of this
280 subdivision, "extended stop arm" means a device attached to a stop
281 semaphore that when activated displays a stop sign and extends more
282 than three feet but not more than six feet from the left side of a school
283 bus.

284 (9) The commissioner shall establish additional standards and
285 requirements for such devices in regulations adopted in accordance
286 with the provisions of chapter 54.

287 Sec. 7. Subsection (f) of section 13a-26 of the general statutes is
288 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
289 *1, 2021*):

290 (f) The provisions of this part restricting the use and accommodation
291 of motor vehicle traffic on parkways to noncommercial vehicles shall
292 not apply to use of the Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways by (1)
293 taxicabs, as defined in section 13b-95, (2) vanpool vehicles, as defined in
294 section 14-1, [or] (3) service buses and motor vehicles with a
295 combination registration that are owned by or under contract to a
296 nonprofit organization, provided (A) such service buses are not more
297 than one hundred twenty inches high, ninety-six inches wide and two
298 hundred eighty-eight inches long, and (B) such motor vehicles with a
299 combination registration are not more than one hundred eight inches
300 high, eighty inches wide and two hundred twenty-eight inches long, or
301 (4) service buses, service buses for students with special needs, or two-
302 axle, four-wheeled type II, registered school buses with a gross vehicle
303 weight rating of ten thousand pounds or less, which are owned by or
304 under contract to a public, private or religious school or public school
305 district and which are engaged in the transportation of school children
306 to and from school or school activities, provided (A) such service buses
307 conform to the regulations establishing the maximum weight, length,

308 height or width of vehicles permitted to use such parkways; (B) such
309 school buses are not more than ninety-eight inches high, eighty-four
310 inches wide and two hundred three inches long; and (C) such service
311 buses for students with special needs are not more than one hundred
312 twenty inches high, ninety inches wide and two hundred eighty-eight
313 inches long. The Office of the State Traffic Administration shall adopt
314 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing
315 the maximum allowable length and height for any vanpool vehicle
316 using said Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways [and, not later than July
317 1, 1984, publish in the Connecticut Law Journal a notice of intent to
318 adopt proposed regulations, as defined in section 4-166,] and reducing
319 the maximum weight, length, height or width of, or limiting the
320 registration classes of, motor vehicles permitted to use such parkways,
321 in order to fully carry out the prohibition on the operation of commercial
322 motor vehicles on such parkways.

323 Sec. 8. Section 14-16c of the general statutes is repealed and the
324 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

325 (a) (1) (A) Any insurance company [which] that takes possession of a
326 motor vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued in this state,
327 that has been declared a total loss and that is offered for sale in this state
328 by such insurance company or its agent as a result of the settlement of a
329 claim for damage or theft, shall stamp the word "SALVAGE" in one-
330 inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length on the vehicle's
331 certificate of title and shall attach to such certificate of title a copy of the
332 appraiser's damage report for such totalled motor vehicle, except that if
333 the insurance company determines that such motor vehicle has ten or
334 more major component parts [which] that are damaged beyond repair
335 and must be replaced, the insurance company shall stamp the words
336 "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three
337 inches in length on the vehicle's certificate of title. A copy of such
338 certificate shall be sent by the insurance company to the Department of
339 Motor Vehicles. If the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles determines that
340 salvage information required to be reported by an insurance company
341 to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System under 49 USC

342 Sections 30501 to 30505, inclusive, and 28 CFR Sections 25.51 to 25.57,
343 inclusive, is available to the department on a regular basis from the
344 National Motor Vehicle Title Information System, the commissioner
345 may discontinue the requirement that an insurance company submit a
346 copy of such certificate to the department. (B) Any insurance company
347 [which] that takes possession of a motor vehicle for which a certificate
348 of title has been issued in any state other than this state that has been
349 declared a total loss and that is offered for sale in this state by such
350 insurance company or its agent as a result of the settlement of a claim
351 for damage or theft, shall attach to such certificate of title a copy of the
352 appraiser's damage report for such totalled motor vehicle.

353 (2) (A) Any person, firm or corporation [which] that is a self-insurer
354 and owns a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued
355 in this state, that has been declared a total loss and that is offered for sale
356 in this state by such self-insurer or its agent, shall stamp the word
357 "SALVAGE" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length
358 on the vehicle's certificate of title and shall attach to such certificate of
359 title a copy of the appraiser's damage report for such totalled motor
360 vehicle, except that if such self-insurer determines that such motor
361 vehicle has ten or more major component parts [which] that are
362 damaged beyond repair and must be replaced, the self-insurer shall
363 stamp the words "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" in one-inch-high letters not
364 to exceed three inches in length on the motor vehicle's certificate of title.
365 Any person, firm or corporation [which] that is insured other than by
366 means of self-insurance and owns such a motor vehicle, shall forward
367 the vehicle's certificate of title to the company insuring such vehicle or
368 the company paying the totalled claim. Such insurer shall stamp the
369 word "SALVAGE" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in
370 length on the certificate of title except that if the insurance company
371 determines that such motor vehicle has ten or more major component
372 parts [which] that are damaged beyond repair and must be replaced, the
373 insurer taking possession of such motor vehicle shall stamp the words
374 "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three
375 inches in length on the motor vehicle's certificate of title and shall return
376 such certificate to such person, firm or corporation. A copy of such

377 certificate shall be sent by the person, firm or corporation to the
378 Department of Motor Vehicles. If the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
379 determines that salvage information required to be reported by a self-
380 insurer to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System under
381 49 USC Sections 30501 to 30505, inclusive, and 28 CFR Sections 25.51 to
382 25.57, inclusive, is available to the department on a regular basis from
383 the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System, the commissioner
384 may discontinue the requirement that a self-insurer submit a copy of
385 such certificate to the department. (B) Any person, firm or corporation
386 [which] that is a self-insurer and owns a motor vehicle for which a
387 certificate of title has been issued in any state other than this state that
388 has been declared a total loss and that is offered for sale in this state by
389 such self-insurer or its agent, shall attach to such certificate of title a copy
390 of the appraiser's damage report for such totalled motor vehicle.

391 (3) For purposes of this subsection, "major component part" has the
392 same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section
393 14-149a.

394 (b) Any insurance company or its agent taking possession of a motor
395 vehicle in accordance with subsection (a) of this section or any person,
396 firm or corporation [which] that owns such motor vehicle shall copy the
397 certificate and give the original of such certificate, with a copy of the
398 appraiser's damage report attached thereto, to any subsequent
399 purchaser of the motor vehicle that has been declared a total loss. The
400 name and address of any such purchaser shall be recorded on the
401 original and the copy, as provided on the certificate. The copy shall
402 serve only as a record of transfers of the total loss motor vehicle.

403 (c) Any insurance company that takes possession of a motor vehicle
404 for which a certificate of title has been issued in this state, as a result of
405 a full settlement of a claim for damage or theft, but is unable to obtain
406 the title to the vehicle from the insured or any lienholder of record for
407 the vehicle may apply to the department for a certificate of title,
408 SALVAGE title or SALVAGE-PARTS ONLY title, as described in
409 subsection (a) of this section. The application for a certificate of title

410 pursuant to this subsection shall (1) be on a form prescribed by the
411 commissioner, (2) include documents as required by the commissioner
412 in lieu of the documents required under subsection (a) of this section,
413 and (3) include evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the
414 insurance company (A) provided at least two notices by certified mail,
415 return receipt requested, to the insured and any lienholder of record for
416 the vehicle indicating the insurance company's intention to apply for a
417 certificate of title as the owner of the vehicle, and (B) made payment to
418 the insured or any lienholder of record in full settlement of the claim
419 involving the vehicle. The commissioner may issue a certificate of title
420 pursuant to this subsection only in the name of the insurance company
421 not earlier than thirty days after the date of the payment described in
422 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (3) of this section is made.

423 [(c)] (d) The person, firm, company or corporation required to stamp
424 "SALVAGE" on the certificate of title shall stamp the following
425 statement on the face of any original or copy of such certificate issued in
426 accordance with this section: "WARNING: ALL PURCHASERS OF THE
427 MOTOR VEHICLE DESCRIBED HEREIN MUST RECORD THEIR
428 NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE REVERSE SIDE. THIS VEHICLE
429 CANNOT BE REGISTERED OR RETITLED WITHOUT PASSING
430 INSPECTION UNDER SECTION 14-103a. THIS DOCUMENT MUST
431 BE SUBMITTED AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION."

432 [(d)] (e) No motor vehicle for which a copy of a certificate of title has
433 been made in accordance with this section may be operated upon any
434 highway in this state, except that an owner of any such motor vehicle
435 who is a motor vehicle dealer or repairer licensed under the provisions
436 of section 14-52 may operate such vehicle for the purpose of presenting
437 the vehicle for inspection pursuant to section 14-103a. If such vehicle
438 fails to comply with the minimum standards, it shall be transported
439 from the site of such inspection. If any such motor vehicle is rebuilt for
440 sale or use, the owner shall apply to the Commissioner of Motor
441 Vehicles for an original certificate of title and present the vehicle for
442 inspection pursuant to section 14-103a. The certificate of title issued in
443 accordance with this section must be presented at the time of inspection,

444 unless waived by the commissioner for good cause.

445 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a motor
446 vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued in this state, that
447 has been declared a total loss in settlement of a claim for theft, having
448 no damage to a major component part or having damage not exceeding
449 (1) fifteen per cent of the retail value of such motor vehicle, as
450 determined in accordance with the provisions of section 38a-353, or (2)
451 one thousand dollars as evidenced by an insurance adjuster's damage
452 appraisal report, shall not be required to have its certificate of title
453 stamped in accordance with the provisions of this section provided
454 proof of such damage or lack of damage to a major component part, is
455 attached to such certificate.

456 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) No insurance company and no firm or corporation [which]
457 that is a self-insurer may sell or transfer any totalled or salvaged motor
458 vehicle, major component parts or any other parts of a motor vehicle to
459 any person, firm or corporation [which] that is not licensed under the
460 provisions of subparts (D) or (H) of part III of this chapter. No person,
461 firm or corporation licensed as a new or used car dealer who holds a
462 permit pursuant to the provisions of section 14-65 may sell or transfer
463 any totalled or salvaged motor vehicle with a certificate of title stamped
464 "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" or any motor vehicle [which] that has ten or
465 more major component parts damaged beyond repair and in need of
466 replacement to any person, firm or corporation which is not licensed
467 under the provisions of subpart (H) of this part or under a similar
468 provision of law of any other state. Any sale or transfer in violation of
469 the provisions of this section shall constitute an unfair method of
470 competition and an unfair or deceptive act or practice, as defined by
471 section 42-110b.

472 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1-350b and the
473 requirements of section 1-350d that a signature on a power of attorney
474 executed in this state be witnessed by two witnesses and acknowledged
475 by a notary public, a commissioner of the Superior Court or other
476 individual authorized by law to take acknowledgments, a power of

477 attorney used to support an application for or transfer of a certificate of
478 title by an insurance company or its agent shall only require the
479 signature or electronic signature of the insured who has received or is
480 to receive a total loss settlement of a claim for damage or theft from the
481 insurance company.

482 [(g)] (i) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles [shall] may adopt
483 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
484 implement the provisions of this section.

485 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 14-20b of the general statutes is
486 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
487 *1, 2021*):

488 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any veteran
489 or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such veteran
490 or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period
491 of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of
492 registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle,
493 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates
494 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any
495 veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of such
496 veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as a trade
497 or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in
498 section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates, which
499 fee shall cover the entire cost of making such plates and shall be in
500 addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle. The
501 commissioner shall charge a fee of fifteen dollars to replace such plates
502 that become mutilated or illegible. As used in this subsection, "member
503 of the armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103
504 and "veteran" means any person (1) honorably discharged from, or
505 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed
506 forces, or (2) with a qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103,
507 who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable
508 from active service in the armed forces.

509 Sec. 10. Section 14-96q of the general statutes is repealed and the

510 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

511 (a) A permit is required for the use of colored or flashing lights on all
512 motor vehicles or equipment specified in this section except: (1) Motor
513 vehicles not registered in this state used for transporting or escorting
514 any vehicle or load, or combinations thereof, which is either oversize or
515 overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued by the
516 Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270; or (2)
517 motor vehicles or equipment that are (A) equipped with lights in
518 accordance with this section, (B) owned or leased by the federal
519 government, the state of Connecticut, or any other state, commonwealth
520 or local municipality, and (C) registered to such governmental entity.
521 When used in this section the term "flashing" shall be considered to
522 include the term "revolving".

523 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or such other person
524 specifically identified in this section, is authorized to issue permits for
525 the use of colored or flashing lights on vehicles in accordance with this
526 section, at the commissioner's or such person's discretion. Any person,
527 firm or corporation other than the state or any metropolitan district,
528 town, city or borough shall pay an annual permit fee of twenty dollars
529 to the commissioner for each such vehicle. Such fee shall apply only to
530 permits issued by the commissioner.

531 (c) A flashing blue light or lights may be used on a motor vehicle
532 operated by an active member of a volunteer fire department or
533 company, [or] an active member of an organized civil preparedness
534 auxiliary fire company or an active member of a volunteer ambulance
535 association or company who has been issued a permit by the chief
536 executive officer of such department, [or] company or association to use
537 a flashing blue light or lights while on the way to or at the scene of a fire
538 or [other] emergency requiring such member's services. Such permit
539 shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and may be revoked
540 by such chief executive officer or successor. The chief executive officer
541 of each volunteer fire department or company, [or] organized civil
542 preparedness auxiliary fire company or volunteer ambulance

543 association or company shall keep on file, on forms provided by the
544 commissioner, the names and addresses of members who have been
545 authorized to use a flashing blue light or lights as provided in this
546 subsection. Such listing shall also designate the registration number of
547 the motor vehicle on which authorized a flashing blue light or lights are
548 to be used.

549 [(d) A green light or lights, including a flashing green light or lights,
550 may be used on a motor vehicle operated by an active member of a
551 volunteer ambulance association or company who has been issued a
552 permit by the chief executive officer of such association or company to
553 use such a light or lights, while on the way to or at the scene of an
554 emergency requiring such member's services. Such permit shall be on a
555 form provided by the commissioner and may be revoked by such chief
556 executive officer or successor. The chief executive officer of each
557 volunteer ambulance association or company shall keep on file, on
558 forms provided by the commissioner, the names and addresses of
559 members who have been authorized to use a flashing green light or
560 lights as provided in this subsection. Such listing shall also designate the
561 registration number of the vehicle on which the authorized flashing
562 green lights are to be used.]

563 [(e)] (d) The commissioner may issue a permit for a flashing red light
564 or lights which may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment (1) used
565 by paid fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants, up to a total of five
566 individuals per department, (2) used by volunteer fire chiefs and their
567 deputies and assistants, up to a total of five individuals per department,
568 (3) used by members of the fire police on a stationary vehicle as a
569 warning signal during traffic directing operations at the scene of a fire
570 or emergency, (4) used by chief executive officers of emergency medical
571 service organizations, as defined in section 19a-175, the first or second
572 deputies, or if there are no deputies, the first or second assistants, of such
573 an organization that is a municipal or volunteer or licensed
574 organization, (5) used by local fire marshals, or (6) used by directors of
575 emergency management.

576 [(f)] (e) The commissioner may issue a permit for a yellow or amber
577 light or lights, including a flashing yellow or amber light or lights, which
578 may be used on motor vehicles or equipment that are (1) specified in
579 subsection [(e)] (d) of this section, (2) maintenance vehicles, or (3)
580 vehicles transporting or escorting any vehicle or load or combinations
581 thereof, which is or are either oversize or overweight, or both, and being
582 operated or traveling under a permit issued by the Commissioner of
583 Transportation pursuant to section 14-270. A yellow or amber light or
584 lights, including a flashing yellow or amber light or lights, may be used
585 without obtaining a permit from the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
586 on wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66, on vehicles of carriers
587 in rural mail delivery service or on vehicles operated by construction
588 inspectors employed by the state of Connecticut, authorized by the
589 Commissioner of Transportation, used during the performance of
590 inspections on behalf of the state. The Commissioner of Transportation
591 shall maintain a list of such authorized construction inspectors,
592 including the name and address of each inspector and the registration
593 number for each vehicle on which the lights are to be used.

594 [(g)] (f) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may issue a permit for
595 a white light or lights, including a flashing white light or lights, which
596 may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment as specified in subdivision
597 (1), (2), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection [(e)] (d) of this section. A vehicle being
598 operated by a member of a volunteer fire department or company or a
599 volunteer emergency medical technician may use flashing white head
600 lamps, provided such member or emergency medical technician is on
601 the way to the scene of a fire or medical emergency and has received
602 written authorization from the chief law enforcement officer of the
603 municipality to use such head lamps. Such head lamps shall only be
604 used within the municipality granting such authorization or from a
605 personal residence or place of employment, if located in an adjoining
606 municipality. Such authorization may be revoked for use of such head
607 lamps in violation of this subdivision. For the purposes of this
608 subsection, the term "flashing white lights" shall not include the
609 simultaneous flashing of head lamps.

610 ~~[(h)]~~ ~~(g)~~ The commissioner may issue a permit for emergency
611 vehicles, as defined in subsection (a) of section 14-283, to use a blue, red,
612 yellow, or white light or lights, including a flashing light or lights or any
613 combination thereof, except as provided in subsection (j) of this section.

614 ~~[(i)]~~ ~~(h)~~ The commissioner may issue a permit for ambulances, as
615 defined in section 19a-175, which may, in addition to the flashing light
616 or lights allowed in subsection ~~[(h)]~~ ~~(g)~~ of this section, use flashing lights
617 of other colors specified by federal requirements for the manufacture of
618 an ambulance. If the commissioner issues a permit for any ambulance,
619 such permit shall be issued at the time of registration and upon each
620 renewal of such registration.

621 ~~[(j)]~~ ~~(i)~~ A green, yellow or amber light or lights, including a flashing
622 green, yellow or amber light or lights or any combination thereof, may
623 be used on a maintenance vehicle owned and operated by the
624 Department of Transportation.

625 ~~[(k)]~~ ~~(j)~~ No person, other than a police officer or inspector of the
626 Department of Motor Vehicles operating a state or local police vehicle,
627 shall operate a motor vehicle displaying a steady blue or steady red
628 illuminated light or both steady blue and steady red illuminated lights
629 that are visible externally from the front of the vehicle.

630 ~~[(l)]~~ ~~(k)~~ Use of colored and flashing lights except as authorized by this
631 section shall be an infraction.

632 Sec. 11. Subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 14-36 of the general
633 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
634 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

635 (b) (1) A person eighteen years of age or older who does not hold a
636 motor vehicle operator's license may not operate a motor vehicle on the
637 public highways of the state for the purpose of instruction until such
638 person has applied for and obtained an adult instruction permit from
639 the commissioner. Such person shall not be eligible for an adult
640 instruction permit if such person has had a motor vehicle operator's

641 license or privilege suspended or revoked. An applicant for an adult
642 instruction permit shall, as a condition to receiving such permit, pass a
643 vision screening conducted by the Department of Motor Vehicles or
644 submit to the commissioner the results of a vision examination
645 conducted by a licensed medical professional, as defined in section 14-
646 46b. Such medical professional shall certify that the applicant meets the
647 vision standards established in regulations adopted pursuant to section
648 14-45a, as amended by this act. An adult instruction permit shall entitle
649 the holder, while such holder has the permit in his or her immediate
650 possession, to operate a motor vehicle on the public highways, provided
651 such holder is under the instruction of, and accompanied by, a person
652 who holds an instructor's license issued under the provisions of section
653 14-73 or a person twenty years of age or older who has been licensed to
654 operate, for at least four years preceding the instruction, a motor vehicle
655 of the same class as the motor vehicle being operated and who has not
656 had his or her motor vehicle operator's license suspended by the
657 commissioner during the four-year period preceding the instruction.
658 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not issue a motor vehicle
659 operator's license to any person holding an adult instruction permit who
660 has held such permit for less than ninety days unless such person (A) is
661 a member of the armed forces on active duty outside the state, or (B) has
662 previously held a motor vehicle operator's license. (2) A person holding
663 a valid out-of-state motor vehicle operator's license may operate a motor
664 vehicle for a period of thirty days following such person's establishment
665 of residence in Connecticut, if the motor vehicle is of the same class as
666 that for which his or her out-of-state motor vehicle operator's license
667 was issued. (3) No person may cause or permit the operation of a motor
668 vehicle by a person under sixteen years of age.

669 (c) (1) A person who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and who has
670 not had a motor vehicle operator's license or right to operate a motor
671 vehicle in this state suspended or revoked may apply to the
672 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for a youth instruction permit. The
673 commissioner may issue a youth instruction permit to an applicant after
674 the applicant has (A) passed a [vision screening and] test as to
675 knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the

676 road, (B) has paid the fee required by subsection (v) of section 14-49, (C)
677 has passed a vision screening conducted by the Department of Motor
678 Vehicles or submitted to the commissioner the results of a vision
679 examination conducted by a licensed medical professional, as defined
680 in section 14-46b, that certifies that the applicant meets the vision
681 standards established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 14-45a,
682 as amended by this act, and (D) has filed a certificate, in such form as
683 the commissioner prescribes, requesting or consenting to the issuance of
684 the youth instruction permit and the motor vehicle operator's license,
685 signed by [(A)] (i) one or both parents or foster parents of the applicant,
686 as the commissioner requires, [(B)] (ii) the legal guardian of the
687 applicant, [(C)] (iii) the applicant's spouse, if the spouse is eighteen years
688 of age or older, or [(D)] (iv) if the applicant has no qualified spouse and
689 such applicant's parent or foster parent or legal guardian is deceased,
690 incapable, domiciled outside of this state or otherwise unavailable or
691 unable to sign or file the certificate, the applicant's stepparent,
692 grandparent, or uncle or aunt by blood or marriage, provided such
693 person is eighteen years of age or older. The commissioner may, for the
694 more efficient administration of the commissioner's duties, appoint any
695 drivers' school licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 14-
696 69 or any secondary school providing instruction in motor vehicle
697 operation and highway safety in accordance with section 14-36e to issue
698 a youth instruction permit, subject to such standards and requirements
699 as the commissioner may prescribe in regulations adopted in
700 accordance with chapter 54. Each youth instruction permit shall expire
701 two years from the date of issuance or on the date the holder of the
702 permit is issued a motor vehicle operator's license, whichever is earlier.
703 Any holder of a youth instruction permit who attains eighteen years of
704 age may retain such permit until the expiration of such permit. (2) The
705 youth instruction permit shall entitle the holder, while such holder has
706 the permit in his or her immediate possession, to operate a motor vehicle
707 on the public highways, provided such holder is under the instruction
708 of, and accompanied by, a person who holds an instructor's license
709 issued under the provisions of section 14-73 or a person twenty years of
710 age or older who has been licensed to operate, for at least four years

711 preceding the instruction, a motor vehicle of the same class as the motor
712 vehicle being operated and who has not had his or her motor vehicle
713 operator's license suspended by the commissioner during the four-year
714 period preceding the instruction. (3) Unless the holder of the permit is
715 under the instruction of and accompanied by a person who holds an
716 instructor's license issued under the provisions of section 14-73, no
717 passenger in addition to the person providing instruction shall be
718 transported unless such passenger is a parent or legal guardian of the
719 holder of the permit. (4) The holder of a youth instruction permit who
720 (A) is an active member of a certified ambulance service, as defined in
721 section 19a-175, (B) has commenced an emergency vehicle operator's
722 course that conforms to the national standard curriculum developed by
723 the United States Department of Transportation, and (C) has had state
724 and national criminal history records checks conducted by the certified
725 ambulance service or by the municipality in which such ambulance
726 service is provided, shall be exempt from the provisions of subdivisions
727 (2) and (3) of this subsection only when such holder is [en route] driving
728 to or from the location of the ambulance for purposes of responding to
729 an emergency call. (5) The commissioner may revoke any youth
730 instruction permit used in violation of the limitations imposed by
731 subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection.

732 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any
733 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant
734 has held a youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements
735 specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) present to the
736 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a certificate of the successful
737 completion (i) in a public secondary school, a technical education and
738 career school or a private secondary school of a full course of study in
739 motor vehicle operation prepared as provided in section 14-36e, (ii) of
740 training of similar nature provided by a licensed drivers' school
741 approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training in accordance
742 with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each case, or by a
743 combination of such types of training, successful completion of: Not less
744 than forty clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction for
745 applicants to whom a youth instruction permit is issued on or after

746 August 1, 2008; (B) present to the commissioner a certificate of the
747 successful completion of a course of not less than eight hours relative to
748 safe driving practices, including a minimum of four hours on the nature
749 and the medical, biological and physiological effects of alcohol and
750 drugs and their impact on the operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers
751 associated with the operation of a motor vehicle after the consumption
752 of alcohol or drugs by the operator, the problems of alcohol and drug
753 abuse and the penalties for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle
754 violations; and (C) pass an examination which may include a
755 comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning motor
756 vehicles and the rules of the road in addition to the test required under
757 subsection (c) of this section and shall include an on-the-road skills test
758 as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of application and
759 examination for a motor vehicle operator's license, an applicant sixteen
760 or seventeen years of age shall have held a youth instruction permit for
761 not less than one hundred eighty days, except that an applicant who
762 presents a certificate under subparagraph (A)(i) or subparagraph (A)(ii)
763 of this subdivision shall have held a youth instruction permit for not less
764 than one hundred twenty days and an applicant who is undergoing
765 training and instruction by the driver training unit for persons with
766 disabilities in accordance with the provisions of section 14-11b shall
767 have held such permit for the period of time required by said unit. The
768 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall approve the content of the safe
769 driving instruction at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary
770 schools. Subject to such standards and requirements as the
771 commissioner may impose, the commissioner may authorize any
772 drivers' school, licensed in good standing in accordance with the
773 provisions of section 14-69, or secondary school driver education
774 program authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 14-36e, to
775 administer the comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws
776 concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road, required pursuant
777 to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, as part of the safe driving
778 practices course required pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this
779 subdivision, and to certify to the commissioner, under oath, the results
780 of each such test administered. Such hours of instruction required by

781 this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition to any existing
782 instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course required under
783 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not exceed one hundred fifty
784 dollars. Any applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who, while a
785 resident of another state, completed the course required in
786 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but did not complete the safe
787 driving course required in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, shall
788 complete the safe driving course. The commissioner may waive any
789 requirement in this subdivision, except for that in subparagraph (C) of
790 this subdivision, in the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years
791 of age who holds a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any
792 other state, provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has
793 received training and instruction of a similar nature.

794 (2) The commissioner may accept as evidence of sufficient training
795 under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection home
796 training as evidenced by a written statement signed by the spouse of a
797 married minor applicant, or by a parent, grandparent, foster parent or
798 legal guardian of an applicant which states that the applicant has
799 obtained a youth instruction permit and has successfully completed a
800 driving course taught by the person signing the statement, that the
801 signer has had an operator's license for at least four years preceding the
802 date of the statement, and that the signer has not had such license
803 suspended by the commissioner for at least four years preceding the
804 date of the statement or, if the applicant has no spouse, parent,
805 grandparent, foster parent or guardian so qualified and available to give
806 the instruction, a statement signed by the applicant's stepparent,
807 brother, sister, uncle or aunt, by blood or marriage, provided the person
808 signing the statement is qualified.

809 (3) If the commissioner requires a written test of any applicant under
810 this section, the test shall be given in English, [or] Spanish, Vietnamese
811 or Albanian at the option of the applicant, provided the commissioner
812 shall require that the applicant shall have sufficient understanding of
813 English for the interpretation of traffic control signs.

814 (4) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
815 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
816 purposes of this subsection concerning the requirements for behind-the-
817 wheel, on-the-road instruction, the content of safe driving instruction at
818 drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools, and the
819 administration and certification of required testing.

820 (e) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued until (A) the
821 applicant signs and files with the commissioner an application under
822 oath, or made subject to penalties for false statement in accordance with
823 section 53a-157b, and (B) the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant
824 is sixteen years of age or older and is a suitable person to receive the
825 license.

826 (2) Except any applicant described in section 14-36m, an applicant for
827 a new motor vehicle operator's license shall, in the discretion of the
828 commissioner, file, with the application, a copy of such applicant's birth
829 certificate or other prima facie evidence of date of birth and evidence of
830 identity.

831 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not previously
832 held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or who has not
833 operated a motor vehicle during the preceding two years, the
834 commissioner shall require the applicant to demonstrate personally to
835 the commissioner, a deputy or a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of
836 the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, that the
837 applicant is a proper person to operate motor vehicles of the class for
838 which such applicant has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the
839 mechanism of the motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him
840 or her and has satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor
841 vehicles and the rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant
842 for a class D motor vehicle operator's license may be administered in
843 such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio,
844 electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be administered
845 in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Albanian or any language spoken at
846 home by at least one per cent of the state's population, according to

847 statistics prepared by the United States Census Bureau, based on the
848 most recent decennial census. Each such knowledge test shall include a
849 question concerning highway work zone safety and the responsibilities
850 of an operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d. Each such
851 knowledge test shall include not less than one question concerning
852 distracted driving, the use of mobile telephones and electronic devices
853 by motor vehicle operators or the responsibilities of motor vehicle
854 operators under section 14-296aa. If any such applicant has held a
855 license from a state, territory or possession of the United States where a
856 similar examination is required, the commissioner may waive part or all
857 of the examination. If any such applicant is (A) a veteran who applies
858 not later than two years after the date of discharge from the military and
859 who, prior to such discharge, held a military operator's license for motor
860 vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has applied,
861 or (B) a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who
862 currently holds a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the
863 same class as that for which such applicant has applied, the
864 commissioner shall waive all of the examination, except in the case of
865 commercial motor vehicle licenses, the commissioner shall only waive
866 the driving skills test for such applicant who meets the conditions set
867 forth in 49 CFR 383.77. For the purposes of this subsection, "veteran"
868 means any person who was discharged or released under conditions
869 other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and
870 "armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.
871 When the commissioner is satisfied as to the ability and competency of
872 any applicant, the commissioner may issue to such applicant a license,
873 either unlimited or containing such limitations as the commissioner
874 deems advisable, and specifying the class of motor vehicles which the
875 licensee is eligible to operate.

876 (4) If any applicant or operator license holder has any health problem
877 which might affect such person's ability to operate a motor vehicle
878 safely, the commissioner may require the applicant or license holder to
879 demonstrate personally or otherwise establish that, notwithstanding
880 such problem, such applicant or license holder is a proper person to
881 operate a motor vehicle, and the commissioner may further require a

882 certificate of such applicant's condition, signed by a medical authority
883 designated by the commissioner, which certificate shall in all cases be
884 treated as confidential by the commissioner. A license, containing such
885 limitation as the commissioner deems advisable, may be issued or
886 renewed in any case, but nothing in this section shall be construed to
887 prevent the commissioner from refusing a license, either limited or
888 unlimited, to any person or suspending a license of a person whom the
889 commissioner determines to be incapable of safely operating a motor
890 vehicle. Consistent with budgetary allotments, each motor vehicle
891 operator's license issued to or renewed by a person who is deaf or hard
892 of hearing shall, upon the request of such person, indicate such
893 impairment. Such person shall submit a certificate stating such
894 impairment, in such form as the commissioner may require and signed
895 by a licensed health care practitioner.

896 (5) The issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license to any applicant
897 who is the holder of a license issued by another state shall be subject to
898 the provisions of sections 14-111c and 14-111k.

899 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 14-45a of the general statutes is
900 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
901 *1, 2021*):

902 (b) Prior to issuing a motor vehicle operator's license to a person who
903 has not previously been issued a license in this state or has not operated
904 a motor vehicle within the preceding two years, the commissioner may
905 require such person to (1) pass a vision screening conducted by the
906 Department of Motor Vehicles to determine if the person meets vision
907 standards specified in the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection
908 (a) of this section, or (2) submit to the commissioner the results of a
909 vision examination conducted by a licensed medical professional, as
910 defined in section 14-46b, that certifies that such person meets such
911 vision standards.

912 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 14-279b of the general statutes is
913 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
914 *1, 2021*):

915 (a) Whenever a violation of section 14-279 is detected and recorded
916 by a live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring system,
917 a state or municipal police officer shall review the evidence file which
918 shall include two or more digital photographs, recorded video or other
919 recorded images, [and a signed affidavit of a person who witnessed such
920 violation live.] If, after such review, such officer determines that there
921 are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of section 14-279 has
922 occurred, such officer shall authorize the issuance of a summons for
923 such alleged violation. If such officer authorizes the issuance of a
924 summons for such alleged violation, the law enforcement agency shall,
925 not later than [ten] thirty days after the alleged violation, mail a
926 summons to the registered owner of the motor vehicle together with a
927 copy of two or more digital photographs, recorded video or other
928 recorded images, [and a signed affidavit of a person who witnessed such
929 violation live.]

930 Sec. 14. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
931 shall study compliance with the laws regarding the sale and repair of
932 fire apparatus in the state. Such study shall include, but need not be
933 limited to, (1) the number of times in the last five years that the
934 commissioner imposed a civil penalty pursuant to section 14-51a of the
935 general statutes or conducted investigations and held hearings pursuant
936 to section 14-65k of the general statutes with regards to the sale or repair
937 of fire apparatus, (2) the number of times in the last five years that the
938 commissioner requested the Attorney General apply to the Superior
939 Court for an order temporarily or permanently restraining and
940 enjoining a person or entity selling or repairing fire apparatus from
941 violating sections 14-51 to 14-65j, inclusive, of the general statutes, (3) a
942 summary of all complaints received regarding the sale or repair of fire
943 apparatus, and (4) any recommendations for legislation to ensure any
944 person, firm or corporation selling or repairing fire apparatus is
945 properly licensed by the commissioner. Not later than February 1, 2022,
946 the commissioner shall submit a report on its findings and any
947 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
948 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, in
949 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

950 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 14-44e of the general statutes is
951 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
952 *1, 2021*):

953 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not issue a
954 commercial driver's license to any person unless such person is a
955 resident of this state and has passed a knowledge and skills test for
956 driving a commercial motor vehicle which complies with the minimum
957 federal standards established by 49 CFR 383, Subparts G and H, as
958 amended, and has satisfied all other requirements of this section and
959 sections 14-44b, 14-44c and 14-44g, in addition to other requirements for
960 an operator's license imposed by the general statutes and regulations of
961 the commissioner.

962 (2) On and after February 7, 2022, the commissioner shall not (A)
963 administer a commercial driver's license skills test to a person who is
964 applying for or upgrading to a class A or class B commercial driver's
965 license, or applying for a "P" or "S" endorsement, until the commissioner
966 has verified with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that
967 such person has undergone the entry level driver training required
968 under 49 CFR Part 380, as amended from time to time, and (B)
969 administer a commercial driver's license knowledge test to any person
970 who is applying for a "H" endorsement until the commissioner has
971 verified with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that such
972 person has undergone the entry level driver training required under 49
973 CFR Part 380, as amended from time to time. The provisions of this
974 subdivision shall not apply to any person who is exempt under 49 CFR
975 Part 383, as amended from time to time.

976 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 14-42a of the general statutes is
977 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
978 *1, 2021*):

979 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the Commissioner of
980 Administrative Services shall enter into an agreement with one or more
981 federally designated organ and tissue procurement organizations to
982 provide to such organizations access to the names, dates of birth and

983 other pertinent information of holders of operator's licenses, instruction
984 permits and identity cards issued pursuant to section 1-1h who have
985 registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles an intent to become
986 organ and tissue donors. Such access shall be provided in a manner and
987 form to be determined by the commissioners, following consultation
988 with such organizations, and may include electronic transmission of
989 initial information and periodic updating of information. The
990 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not charge a fee for such access
991 pursuant to section 14-50a, but may charge such organizations
992 reasonable administrative costs. Information provided to such
993 organizations shall be used solely for identifying such [license] holders
994 as organ and tissue donors.

995 Sec. 17. Section 14-67m of the general statutes is repealed and the
996 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

997 (a) Each motor vehicle recycler licensee shall maintain a suitable
998 office and keep accurate records of all motor vehicles or major
999 component parts thereof received, dismantled or sold. Such records
1000 may be handwritten, typewritten or computer-generated. Such records,
1001 vehicles and parts shall be available for inspection during regular
1002 business hours by one or more representatives of the Department of
1003 Motor Vehicles, the Division of State Police within the Department of
1004 Emergency Services and Public Protection or any organized local police
1005 department. Such inspection shall include examination of the recycler's
1006 premises to determine the accuracy of the required records. Such
1007 records shall include the make, year, engine number, if any, and
1008 identification number of each vehicle, the name and address of the
1009 person from whom each vehicle or part was received and to whom each
1010 vehicle or part was sold, if a sale occurred, a copy of the proof provided
1011 in subsection (c) of this section in the case of a catalytic converter, and
1012 the date of such receipt and sale. The records shall be maintained for a
1013 period of two years after each receipt or sale. Twice a month, each such
1014 licensee shall mail to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a list of all
1015 motor vehicles received, stating the make, year, engine number, if any,
1016 and identification number of each such vehicle. The list, on a form

1017 approved by the commissioner, shall be mailed or delivered to the
1018 commissioner on or before the twentieth day of each month, covering
1019 the first fifteen days of that month, and on or before the fifth day of each
1020 month, covering the sixteenth through the last day of the preceding
1021 month. A recycler shall report the information contained on such lists to
1022 the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System under 49 USC
1023 Section 30504. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require
1024 the department to report any of such information to said title
1025 information system.

1026 (b) No motor vehicle recycler licensee may receive a motor vehicle
1027 unless the licensee receives the vehicle's certificate of title, if the vehicle
1028 is required to have title, or a copy of the vehicle's certificate of title made
1029 by an insurance company pursuant to section 14-16c, as amended by
1030 this act, at the time of receipt of the vehicle. Upon receipt of any such
1031 certificate or copy, such licensee shall stamp on it the word "JUNKED"
1032 in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length. Any
1033 certificate of title received, other than a title acquired for use in
1034 connection with the licensee's business, shall accompany the list sent
1035 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Any such copy received shall
1036 be maintained for as long as the junk is on the licensee's premises. If the
1037 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles determines that information
1038 concerning junked motor vehicles required to be reported by a licensee
1039 to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System under 49 USC
1040 Sections 30501 to 30505, inclusive, and 28 CFR Sections 25.51 to 25.57,
1041 inclusive, is available to the department on a regular basis from the
1042 National Motor Vehicle Title Information System, the commissioner
1043 may discontinue the requirement that a licensee submit to the
1044 department (1) a list of vehicles or parts received, in accordance with the
1045 provisions of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) certificates of title or
1046 copies of such certificates, in accordance with the provisions of this
1047 subsection.

1048 (c) No motor vehicle recycler licensee may receive a catalytic
1049 converter of a motor vehicle unless the licensee, at the time of receipt,
1050 obtains from the seller (1) proof of ownership of such motor vehicle, or

1051 (2) proof that the seller is an authorized agent of the owner of such motor
 1052 vehicle.

1053 [(c)] (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations
 1054 in accordance with chapter 54, concerning the records required by this
 1055 section.

1056 [(d)] (e) The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose a
 1057 civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five
 1058 hundred dollars for each offense on any person, firm or corporation who
 1059 violates the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	14-36g
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-12(b) and (c)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-140
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-253a(b)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-275(c)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	13a-26(f)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-16c
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-20b(a)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-96q
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-36(b) to (e)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-45a(b)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-279b(a)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-44e(a)
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-42a(a)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-67m

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal
State Revenues	GF&TF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
State Revenues	GF&TF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Revenue Loss	Less than 1,000	Less than 1,000
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Cost	Less than 20,000	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund; GF&TF=General Fund & Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 allows a 16- or 17-year-old to transport their sibling to or from school within the first six-month of licensure and results in a potential revenue loss to the extent that fines will no longer be collected. In FY 20, the current statute restricting passengers for 16- and 17-year-old drivers resulted in 135 fines totaling \$13,313.

Section 2 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to allow motor home and recreational vehicle owners who use their vehicles as permanent residences to register using a post office box in the town in which they reside. This section does not result in a fiscal impact to DMV because it is within the department's current expertise to update the

registration form as needed.

Section 3 prohibits DMV from suspending licenses for failing to pay fines resulting from a motor vehicle infraction and results in a potential revenue loss to the extent that a subset of violators no longer pays the requisite fines.

Section 4 removes the requirement that children with disabilities must be under age 18 for parents or guardians to receive accessible placards. This section results in a potential minimal revenue gain to DMV to the extent that more temporary placards are requested due to the expanded eligibility. In FY 20, collections from temporary placards were \$38,850. Under current law, and unchanged by the bill, there is no fee for a permanent placard.

Section 5 creates a new infraction for failing to yield the right-of-way to a bus traveling in the same direction when the bus appropriately signals to reenter the flow of traffic. To the extent that offenders are fined, this section results in potential minimal revenue.

Section 6 requires school buses, beginning with model year 2022, to be equipped with an extended stop arm and results in a potential minimal revenue gain from fines. There were no fines issued for violating the school bus equipment statute in either FY 20 or FY 19.

Section 9 lowers, from \$25 to \$15, the fee for replacing mutilated or illegible veteran plates. DMV systems do not track the number of mutilated veteran plates that are replaced each year. However, in FY 20 DMV replaced 11,414 mutilated plates of any kind, which represent approximately 0.4% of total active plates.¹ Assuming a similar percentage of mutilated plate replacements applies to the 17,770 active veteran plates, this section results in an estimated revenue loss of less than \$1,000 annually.

Section 11 requires DMV to offer driver's license testing in Vietnamese and Albanian and results in a one-time cost of less than

¹ As of April 1, 2021, according to data provided by DMV.

\$20,000 in FY 22 to procure translation services for the test. Periodic minimal costs may be incurred beyond FY 22 in order to translate updates to the test as required.

Section 14 requires DMV to report on compliance with the laws regarding the sale and repair of fire apparatus and does not result in a fiscal impact because this is within the department's current expertise.

Section 15 requires DMV to verify with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) that commercial driver's license applicants have undergone federally-required training. This results in no fiscal impact because the requisite verification will be provided by FMCSA at no cost to DMV.

Section 16 expands the authority for DMV and the Department of Administrative Services to share organ and tissue donor information to include instruction permit holders and has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the number of violations, or as otherwise described.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 982****AN ACT REVISING MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES.****SUMMARY**

This bill makes numerous unrelated changes in motor vehicle laws. Among other things, the bill:

1. allows a driver age 16 or 17 to transport his or her sibling to or from school during the first six months after obtaining a license (§ 1);
2. prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner from suspending a driver's license solely for failing to pay fines, fees, or other charges resulting from a motor vehicle infraction (§ 3);
3. allows service buses and vehicles with combination registrations that are owned or under contract by a nonprofit to be used on the parkways if they meet specific dimension requirements (§ 7); and
4. prohibits motor vehicle recyclers from receiving a vehicle's catalytic converter unless the seller provides proof that he or she owns the vehicle or is an authorized agent of the vehicle's owner (§ 17).

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021, except the provisions concerning young drivers transporting siblings (§ 1) is effective July 1, 2021, and the fire apparatus study (§ 14) is effective upon passage.

§1 — YOUNG DRIVERS TRANSPORTING SIBLINGS

By law, for the first six months after obtaining a license, a driver age

16 or 17 generally may not have as a passenger anyone other than (1) his or her parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom has a driver's license, or (2) one passenger who is a (a) licensed driving instructor or (b) person age 20 or older who has held a license for at least four years without it being suspended in that time. The bill also allows a 16- or 17-year-old driver to transport his or her sibling to or from school during this period.

Under existing law, for the period between six months and one year after a 16- or 17-year-old receives a license, he or she may carry immediate family members as passengers.

§ 2 — MOTOR HOME, RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV), FLEET, AND COMMERCIAL TRUCK REGISTRATIONS

The bill requires the DMV commissioner to allow motor home and RV owners who use their vehicles as permanent residences to register their vehicles using P.O. box addresses in the towns where they reside. Current law generally provides the commissioner discretion in what information and proof of ownership she may require registration applicants to provide. By law, a "motor home" is a vehicular unit designed to provide living quarters and necessary amenities that are built into an integral part of, or permanently attached to, a truck or van chassis (CGS § 14-1(57)). An "RV" includes the camper, camp trailer, and motor home classes of vehicles (CGS § 14-1(80)).

Additionally, the bill permits the commissioner to authorize businesses with 100 or more Connecticut-registered vehicles, and meeting qualifications she establishes, to electronically register or transfer registrations for any vehicle they acquire. Under the bill, these businesses must pay all applicable registration and title fees for each registration.

The bill also requires the commissioner to allow certain licensed car dealers to electronically register vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating over 26,000 pounds that are used or operated in intrastate commerce. Under the bill, these dealers must pay all applicable registration and title fees for the registrations. By law, these dealers

generally are appointed by the commissioner and authorized to issue new registrations for passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, campers, camp trailers, commercial trailers, service buses, school buses, trucks, or other vehicle types sold by the licensed dealer (see BACKGROUND).

§ 3 — DRIVER’S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS

Existing law generally prevents the motor vehicle statutes from being construed as prohibiting the DMV commissioner’s authority to suspend or revoke registrations or licenses (CGS § 14-111(a)). Notwithstanding that law, the bill prohibits the commissioner from suspending a license solely for failing to pay fines, fees, or other charges resulting from a motor vehicle infraction.

§ 4 — ACCESSIBLE PARKING PLACARDS

Current law allows a parent or guardian of a child younger than age 18 with a disability to apply for an accessible parking windshield placard on the child’s behalf and specifies that DMV must issue a placard to each parent or guardian who applies, except that it cannot issue more than two placards on behalf of an eligible child. The bill eliminates the limitation that the child must be under age 18.

§ 5 — RIGHT-OF-WAY AND BUSES

The bill requires vehicle drivers to yield the right-of-way to a bus traveling in the same direction when the bus appropriately signals (i.e., by using a hand and arm, signal lamp, or mechanical signal device) to reenter the flow of traffic. A violation is an infraction.

§ 6 — SCHOOL BUS EQUIPMENT

The bill requires school buses, beginning with model year 2022, to be equipped with an extended stop arm. Under the bill, an “extended stop arm” is a device attached to a stop semaphore that when activated displays a stop sign and extends between three and six feet from the left side of a school bus.

§ 7 — VEHICLES ON PARKWAYS

Existing law generally prohibits buses on parkways (CGS §§ 13a-26

& 13b-27; Conn. Agencies Regs. § 14-298-249). However, school buses and service buses can be used on the Merritt and Wilbur Cross parkways if they:

1. are owned by or under contract to a public, private, or religious school or public school district;
2. are engaged in the transportation of school children to and from school or school activities; and
3. satisfy certain registration, design, dimension, and weight requirements.

Specifically, the school buses must be registered, two-axle, four-wheeled Type II vehicles not more than eight feet two inches high, seven feet wide, or 16 feet 11 inches long, with gross vehicle weight ratings of 10,000 pounds or less. The service buses must generally not be more than eight feet high, seven feet six inches wide, or 24 feet long, with gross vehicle weight ratings of 7,500 pounds or less. However, the vehicle height for service buses for students with special needs may extend past eight feet but not exceed 10 feet (CGS § 13a-26(f); Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 14-298-249(f) & (g)).

The bill allows service buses and vehicles with combination registrations that are owned or under contract by a nonprofit to be used on the parkways if they meet specific dimension requirements. Specifically, the service buses must not be more than 10 feet high, eight feet wide, and 24 feet long, and the vehicles must not be more than nine feet high, six feet eight inches wide, and 19 feet long.

§ 8 — INSURANCE COMPANY POSSESSION OF VEHICLES

The bill creates a process for insurance companies that take possession of a vehicle as a result of a damage or theft claim settlement to apply to DMV for certain title documents if they are unable to obtain them from the insured or lienholder. The companies may specifically apply for regular, SALVAGE, or SALVAGE-PARTS ONLY title certificates. (By law, if a vehicle has been declared a total loss and

offered for sale by certain insurance entities, the title certificates must be stamped with (1) "SALVAGE" or (2) "SALVAGE-PARTS ONLY" if the company determines the vehicle has at least 10 major component parts that are damaged beyond repair and must be replaced.)

Under the bill, applications must be on a DMV commissioner-prescribed form and include documents the commissioner requires. They must also include evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the company (1) provided at least two notices by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the insured and any lienholder of record for the vehicle indicating the company's intention to apply for a title certificate as the owner of the vehicle and (2) made payment to the insured or lienholders in full settlement of the claim involving the vehicle. The bill prohibits the commissioner from issuing these title certificates until at least 30 days after the settlement payment is made.

The bill also makes changes to powers of attorney used to support an insurance company's application for or transfer of title certificates. Under existing law, the Connecticut Uniform Power of Attorney Act generally, with certain exceptions, applies to all powers of attorney and requires, among other things, a principal's signature be witnessed by two people and acknowledged before a notary, Connecticut-licensed attorney, or other person authorized to take acknowledgements (CGS §§ 1-350b & 1-350d). Notwithstanding that law, the bill requires that a power of attorney used to support an insurance company's application for or transfer of title certificate only needs a signature or electronic signature of the insured who has received or will receive a total loss settlement from the company.

Additionally, the bill authorizes, rather than requires as under current law, the DMV commissioner to adopt regulations about these applications and related law.

§ 9 — REPLACEMENT VETERANS' PLATES

Under existing law, the DMV commissioner generally must charge a fee of \$20 to replace vehicle plates (CGS § 14-50a(a)). The bill establishes

a specific fee of \$15 for replacing veterans' plates that become mutilated or illegible.

§ 10 — COLORED LIGHTS ON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE MEMBERS' VEHICLES

State law restricts the color of lights that may be displayed on vehicles and generally prohibits using flashing lights on motor vehicles and equipment except under specified circumstances (CGS § 14-96p). Under current law, steady and flashing green lights may be used on vehicles operated by an active member of a volunteer ambulance association or company who (1) has been issued a permit by his or her association's or company's chief executive officer and (2) is on the way to or at the scene of an emergency requiring the member's services. The bill instead allows them to use flashing blue lights under the same circumstances and while on the way to or at the scene of a fire.

By law, vehicles operated by active members of a volunteer fire department or company or of an organized civil preparedness auxiliary fire company may already use flashing blue lights.

§§ 11-12 — DRIVER'S LICENSE AND PERMIT TESTING

Under current law, before issuing a (1) driver's license to someone who has not been issued a Connecticut license before or operated a motor vehicle within the last two years or (2) youth instruction permit to a 16- or 17-year old, the DMV commissioner may require that person to pass a vision screening to determine if he or she satisfies the state's vision standards. The bill specifies that this screening must be conducted by DMV or, alternatively, the person may submit the results of a vision exam by a licensed medical professional that certifies he or she satisfies the standards. The bill also imposes this vision testing as a requirement for obtaining an adult instruction permit. By law and under the bill, a "medical professional" is a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist (CGS § 14-46b).

Additionally, the bill adds Vietnamese and Albanian to the languages in which DMV must administer knowledge tests for driver's licenses.

Under current law, these tests must be administered in English, Spanish, or any language spoken at home by at least 1% of the state's population, according to most recent decennial census from the U.S. Census Bureau. Besides English and Spanish, the DMV currently tests in Arabic, French, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, and Russian. Relatedly, the bill requires that DMV give youth instruction permit written tests in Vietnamese or Albanian, in addition to English and Spanish, as is the case under current law.

§ 13 — SCHOOL BUS PASSING VIOLATIONS

The bill makes modifications affecting school bus passing violations based on evidence from a school bus violation detection video monitoring system. Specifically, it (1) extends, from 10 to 30 days, the deadline for law enforcement to issue a ticket after a violation is recorded and (2) removes the requirement for a signed affidavit from the person who witnessed the violation live.

§ 14 — FIRE APPARATUS SALE AND REPAIR

The bill requires the DMV commissioner to study compliance with the laws regarding the sale and repair of fire apparatus in Connecticut and submit a report with her findings and recommendations to the Transportation Committee by February 1, 2022. Under the bill, the study must include:

1. the number of times in the last five years the commissioner imposed a civil penalty under CGS § 14-51a for violating related laws or conducted investigations and held hearings under CGS § 14-65k on the sale or repair of fire apparatus,
2. the number of times in the last five years the commissioner requested the attorney general to apply to the Superior Court for a temporary or permanent restraining order enjoining a person or entity selling or repairing fire apparatus from violating related laws (CGS §§ 14-51 to 14-65j),
3. a summary of all complaints received regarding the sale or repair of fire apparatus, and

4. any recommendations for legislation to ensure fire apparatus sellers and repairers are properly licensed by DMV.

§ 15 — COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TESTING

Under current law, the DMV commissioner must not issue a commercial driver's license (CDL) unless the person has, among other things, passed a knowledge and skills test that complies with specific minimum federal standards. Beginning February 7, 2022, the bill requires the commissioner to not administer a (1) CDL skills test to a person who is applying for or upgrading to a class A or class B CDL or applying for a "P" or "S" endorsement or (2) CDL knowledge test to a person who is applying for an "H" endorsement, until the commissioner has verified with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that the person has undergone the entry level driver training required under federal regulations. The bill provides that these requirements do not apply to anyone exempt under federal regulations.

§ 16 — ORGAN AND TISSUE DONORS INFORMATION

By law, the DMV and Department of Administrative Services commissioners must enter into an agreement with at least one organ and tissue procurement organization to provide the organization access to information on driver's license and identity card holders who intend to be donors. The bill requires the departments to also provide the procurement organization with information on individuals holding instruction permits who wish to be donors.

§ 17 — CATALYTIC CONVERTER SALES

The bill prohibits motor vehicle recyclers from receiving a vehicle's catalytic converter unless the seller provides proof that he or she owns the vehicle or is an authorized agent of the vehicle's owner. The bill also requires motor vehicle recyclers to maintain copies of the proof with their records. By law, their records must be available for inspection by the DMV, State Police, and any organized local police department.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

Section 33 of sSB 261, reported favorably by the Transportation Committee, permits the DMV commissioner to appoint certain qualified and licensed dealers to issue original and renewal registrations for passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, campers, camp trailers, commercial trailers, service buses, school buses, trucks, and other vehicle types, regardless of whether the dealers sold the vehicles to the registrants.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/24/2021)