



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 6539**

LCO No. 3943



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE HOLDERS  
AND PRETRIAL ALCOHOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 54-56g of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (h) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable in the case of  
5 any person charged with a violation of section 14-227a or 14-227m or  
6 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n (1) while  
7 operating a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, or (2)  
8 who holds a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's  
9 instruction permit and is transporting in a passenger motor vehicle, as  
10 defined in section 14-1, merchandise, freight or persons in connection  
11 with any business enterprise at the time of the violation.

12 Sec. 2. Section 54-56p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
13 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

14 (a) The court may, in its discretion, invoke a program on motion of a

15 defendant or on motion of a state's attorney or prosecuting attorney  
16 with respect to a defendant who (1) was under twenty-one years of age  
17 at the time of the offense, (2) is charged with a motor vehicle violation,  
18 or a violation of section 30-88a, subsection (a) or (b) of section 30-89 or  
19 section 30-89a, and (3) has not previously had such program invoked on  
20 such person's behalf.

21 (b) This section shall not be applicable to any person (1) who, at the  
22 time of the motor vehicle violation, holds a commercial driver's license  
23 or commercial driver's instruction permit and is transporting in a  
24 passenger motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, merchandise, freight  
25 or persons in connection with any business enterprise, or is operating a  
26 commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, or (2) charged with  
27 a motor vehicle violation causing serious injury or death, a motor  
28 vehicle violation classified as a felony unless good cause is shown, or a  
29 violation of section 14-227a, 14-227g or 14-296aa.

30 (c) The court shall refer such person to the Court Support Services  
31 Division of the Judicial Branch for confirmation of eligibility of such  
32 person. Such program shall provide a nonconfrontational forum for  
33 such defendants to hear from victims who have been affected by  
34 underage drinking, drunk driving, distracted driving or other motor  
35 vehicle violations. Such program shall be approved by the Court  
36 Support Services Division conducted by a nonprofit organization that  
37 advocates on behalf of victims of accidents caused by persons who  
38 operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating  
39 liquor or drugs or both. Such organization may assess a participation fee  
40 of not more than fifty dollars on any defendant required by the court to  
41 participate in such program.

42 (d) Such organization shall report whether the defendant  
43 satisfactorily completed the program to the Court Support Services  
44 Division. If the defendant satisfactorily completed the program, not  
45 later than nine months after the date on which the program was invoked  
46 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the charges against the  
47 defendant shall be dismissed. If the defendant does not satisfactorily

48 complete the program not later than nine months after the invocation of  
49 such program, the charges against the defendant shall be reinstated.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	54-56g(h)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	54-56p

**Statement of Purpose:**

To permit certain holders of commercial driver's licenses to participate in a pretrial alcohol education program.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*