OLR Bill Analysis  
sSB 983  

AN ACT CONCERNING SLOWING DOWN FOR SERVICE VEHICLES.  

SUMMARY  
Existing law generally requires a driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction to (1) pass on the left at a safe distance and (2) not move right until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle (CGS § 14-232). This bill requires drivers passing a stationary or slow-moving service vehicle to also immediately reduce their vehicles’ speed to a reasonable level below the posted speed limit. Under the bill, these requirements do not apply in situations when the driver is lawfully passing on the right or in a no-passing zone (CGS §§ 14-233 & 14-234).  

Under the bill, drivers must be issued a warning for violations of the bill’s requirements occurring within the first nine months after the bill takes effect (until June 30, 2022); violations occurring after that date are an infraction.  

The bill defines a “service vehicle” as a (1) commercial motor vehicle equipped with a garbage compactor, detachable container, or curbside recycling body; (2) tank vehicle; (3) vehicle authorized by the U.S. government to carry mail; or (4) vehicle operated by an express delivery carrier. By law, a “tank vehicle” is a commercial motor vehicle with a permanently or temporarily attached tank designed to transport liquid or gaseous material, but not a vehicle with a portable tank that has a rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or less (CGS § 14-1(97)).  

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021  

COMMITTEE ACTION  
Transportation Committee
Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 35  Nay 0  (03/24/2021)