

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6676

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON

Title: STATE PARKWAYS.

Vote Date: 3/27/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/27/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Commercial vehicles are prohibited from driving on the state parkways but despite the signs stating such prohibition, they still end up there. This causes significant traffic jams once the trucks realize they can't fit under the overpasses. This bill would increase the penalty to \$500 for commercial vehicles who fail to adhere to the ban. The accidents caused by commercial vehicles and resulting closures of those parkways has been widely reported. The accidents have a significant impact on commuters as well as local and regional resources, which are responsible for clearing the state parkways and opening them back up. The fine would serve as a deterrent for vehicles that are currently driving on those state parkways.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

John Blair, President, Motor Transportation Association of Connecticut: He testified in opposition to the bill, stating that it creates an inflated fine aimed at the trucking industry, increasing the penalty for illegally operating a commercial vehicle on a Connecticut parkway

from \$90 to \$500 for a first offense. He believes that there is no basis to support such an increase and no evidence to support that a fine increase of this magnitude would decrease the number of commercial vehicles illegally operating on Connecticut's parkways.

Peter Myers, Public Policy Associate, CBIA: He testified in opposition to the bill, stating that increasing the fine from \$90 to \$500 is drastic and unfair. He recommended that the committee instead increase the fine from \$90 to \$150 for a first offense and then increase the fine to \$500 for all subsequent infractions.

Frank Vitale: He testified in opposition to the bill.

Reported by: Jennifer Albrecht

Date: April 4, 2023