

Senate, April 14, 1998. The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-18 of the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) (1) Each motor vehicle for which one
5 number plate has been issued shall, while in use
6 or operation upon any public highway, display in a
7 conspicuous place at the rear of such vehicle the
8 number plate. Each such motor vehicle shall also
9 display a sticker on the number plate or elsewhere
10 on the vehicle, as the commissioner may direct,
11 denoting the expiration date of the registration,
12 as assigned by the commissioner.

13 (2) Each motor vehicle for which two number
14 plates have been issued shall, while in use or
15 operation upon any public highway, display in a
16 conspicuous place at the front and the rear of
17 such vehicle the number plates. Each such motor
18 vehicle shall also display a sticker on the rear
19 number plate or elsewhere on the vehicle, as the
20 commissioner may direct, denoting the expiration
21 date of the registration, as assigned by the
22 commissioner.

23 (b) Repealed by 1969, P.A. 247, S. 1.

24 (c) Such number plates when displayed upon
25 motor vehicles shall be entirely unobscured and
26 the numerals and letters thereon shall be plainly
27 legible at all times. Such number plates shall be
28 horizontal, and shall be fastened so as not to
29 swing and, during the time when a motor vehicle is
30 required to display lights, the rear number plate
31 shall be so illuminated as to be legible at a
32 distance of fifty feet. No plates, devices or
33 attachments may be affixed to the official number
34 plates. Plates, devices or attachments affixed to
35 the number plate holder shall be attached to the
36 rear of the holder in such manner that they will
37 not cover any part of the number plate and that
38 loosening of the device or its attachments will
39 not permit it to fall or move so as to cover any
40 symbols on the face of the number plate. Not more
41 than one number plate shall be displayed on the
42 front or rear of any motor vehicle in operation
43 upon the public highways of the state; provided
44 any motor vehicle may, upon permission of the
45 commissioner, display more than one number plate
46 in front or rear, subject to such conditions as
47 the commissioner prescribes. If any number plate
48 supplied by the commissioner is lost, or if the
49 registered number thereon becomes mutilated or
50 illegible, the owner of or the person in control
51 of the motor vehicle for which such number plate
52 was furnished shall immediately place a temporary
53 number plate bearing his registration number upon
54 such motor vehicle, which temporary number plate
55 shall conform to the regular number plate and
56 shall be displayed as nearly as possible as herein
57 provided for such regular number plate; and such
58 owner shall, within forty-eight hours after such
59 loss or mutilation of his number plate, give
60 notice thereof to the commissioner and apply for a
61 new number plate. The commissioner may issue a
62 permit to operate with such temporary plate and
63 shall supply new number plates upon payment of the
64 fee therefor as provided in section 14-50a. Upon
65 receipt of such new number plates and new
66 certificate, the remaining old number plate, if
67 any, and certificate shall be surrendered to the
68 commissioner.

69 (d) All number plates shall be the property
70 of the state and no title therein shall pass to
71 any person registering a motor vehicle under the

72 provisions of this chapter. The owner of any
73 registered motor vehicle which is not reregistered
74 at the end of a registration period shall, within
75 ten days, return the number plates thereof to the
76 commissioner. Any person who sells a motor vehicle
77 pursuant to section 14-150 or 49-61 shall, within
78 ten days of such sale, return to the commissioner
79 any number plates displayed on the vehicle or
80 which come into such person's possession in
81 connection with such sale. When the commissioner
82 issues a new type of number plate for use by all
83 persons registering motor vehicles, the obsolete
84 number plates shall become the property of the
85 registrant upon the expiration date.

86 (e) THE COMMISSIONER MAY ISSUE A NUMBER PLATE
87 INSCRIBED WITH THE LEGEND "SAMPLE". SUCH NUMBER
88 PLATE SHALL NOT BE DISPLAYED ON ANY MOTOR VEHICLE
89 OR USED AS OFFICIAL REGISTRATION MARKER PLATES.
90 THE COMMISSIONER MAY IMPOSE A FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE
91 OF SUCH NUMBER PLATE. SUCH FEE SHALL BE SUFFICIENT
92 TO COVER THE COST OF MANUFACTURING AND ISSUING
93 SUCH NUMBER PLATE.

94 [(e)] (f) No person shall wilfully damage or
95 destroy any number plate.

96 [(f)] (g) Violation of any provision of
97 subsection (a), (c), (d), [or] (e) OR (f) of this
98 section shall be an infraction.

99 Sec. 2. Section 14-98a of the general
100 statutes is repealed and the following is
101 substituted in lieu thereof:

102 No person shall operate a motor vehicle or
103 trailer upon the public highways unless such motor
104 vehicle or trailer is equipped with tires in safe
105 operating condition in accordance with
106 requirements approved by the Commissioner of Motor
107 Vehicles. The commissioner shall establish
108 standards of safe operating condition for tires
109 mounted on vehicles, using simple measuring
110 gauges. Said requirements shall encompass effects
111 of tread wear and depth of tread. This section
112 shall not apply to [farm vehicles registered under
113 subsection (q) of section 14-49,] self-propelled
114 combines, self-propelled corn and hay harvesting
115 machines and tractors used exclusively for
116 agricultural purposes. Any law enforcement
117 officer, at any time, upon reasonable cause to
118 believe that the tires of a vehicle are unsafe or
119 it is equipped with tires in violation of the

120 provision of this section, may require the
121 operator of such vehicle to stop and submit the
122 tires of such vehicle to an inspection. If the
123 inspection discloses the vehicle to be in
124 violation, the officer may issue a summons for
125 such violation. Operation of a motor vehicle or,
126 as owner permitting the operation of a motor
127 vehicle in violation of any provision of this
128 section shall be an infraction.

129 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 14-164a of
130 the general statutes is repealed and the following
131 is substituted in lieu thereof:

132 (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle
133 in any race, contest or demonstration of speed or
134 skill with a motor vehicle as a public exhibition
135 until a permit for such race or exhibition has
136 been obtained from the Commissioner of Motor
137 Vehicles. Any person desiring to manage, operate
138 or conduct such a motor vehicle race or exhibition
139 shall make application in writing to said
140 commissioner at least ten days prior to the race
141 or exhibition and such application shall set forth
142 in detail the time of such proposed race or
143 exhibition, together with a description of the
144 kind and number of motor vehicles to be used and
145 such further information as said commissioner may
146 require. Such application shall be accompanied by
147 a fee of [fifty dollars. On and after July 1,
148 1991, such fee shall be one hundred forty-one
149 dollars, and on and after July 1, 1993,] one
150 hundred seventy-seven dollars. The Commissioner of
151 Motor Vehicles, upon receipt of such application
152 and fee, shall cause an inquiry to be made
153 concerning the condition of the race track or
154 place of exhibition and all of the appurtenances
155 thereto and, if he finds no unusual hazard to
156 participants in such race or exhibition or to
157 persons attending such race or exhibition, he may
158 issue a permit naming a definite date for such
159 race or exhibition, which may be conducted at any
160 reasonable hour of any week day or after twelve
161 o'clock noon on any Sunday. [, provided] THE
162 COMMISSIONER, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE
163 BODY OF THE CITY, BOROUGH OR TOWN IN WHICH THE
164 RACE OR EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD, MAY ISSUE A
165 PERMIT ALLOWING A START TIME PRIOR TO TWELVE
166 O'CLOCK NOON ON ANY SUNDAY, PROVIDED no such race
167 or exhibition shall take place contrary to the

168 provisions of any city, borough or town
169 ordinances. The commissioner may make regulations
170 as to the conditions under which each such race or
171 exhibition may be conducted, including
172 requirements as to types of tires suitable for
173 safe use, the age and physical condition of the
174 participating operators, the number and
175 qualifications of attending personnel, the
176 provision of first-aid and medical supplies and
177 equipment, including ambulances, and the
178 attendance of doctors or other persons qualified
179 to give emergency medical aid, police and fire
180 protection, and such other requirements as will
181 eliminate any unusual hazard to participants in
182 such race or exhibition or to the spectators. No
183 minor under the age of sixteen years may
184 participate in motor cross racing, except that a
185 minor thirteen years of age or older may
186 participate in such racing with the written
187 permission of his parents or legal guardian. If
188 weather or track conditions are such as to make
189 such race or exhibition unusually hazardous, the
190 commissioner or other person designated by him may
191 cancel or postpone the same or may require the use
192 of tires of a type approved by him. No person
193 shall conduct or participate in any motor vehicle
194 race or contest or demonstration of speed or skill
195 in any motor vehicle on the ice of any body of
196 water. The provisions of this section shall not
197 apply to a motor vehicle with a motor of no more
198 than three horsepower or a go-cart type vehicle
199 with a motor of no more than twelve horsepower,
200 when operated on a track of one-eighth of a mile
201 or less in length. Preliminary preparations and
202 practice runs, performed after eleven o'clock in
203 the forenoon, on the date designated in the permit
204 and prior to cancellation or postponement, shall
205 not be construed to constitute a race or
206 exhibition within the meaning of this section. No
207 preliminary preparations or practice runs shall be
208 performed before twelve o'clock noon on Sunday.
209 For the purposes of this subsection, "motor cross
210 racing" means motorcycle racing on a dirt track by
211 participants operating motorcycles designed and
212 manufactured exclusively for off-road use and
213 powered by an engine having a capacity of not more
214 than five hundred cubic centimeters piston
215 displacement.

216 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 14-164c of
217 the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of
218 public act 97-82 and section 15 of public act
219 97-236, is repealed and the following is
220 substituted in lieu thereof:

221 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations
222 in accordance with chapter 54 to implement the
223 provisions of this section. Such regulations shall
224 include provision for a periodic emissions
225 inspection and compliance or waiver with exhaust
226 emission standards, air pollution control system
227 integrity standards and purge system standards
228 defined by the Commissioner of Environmental
229 Protection for all motor vehicles registered or
230 which will be registered in this state except: (1)
231 Vehicles having a gross weight of more than ten
232 thousand pounds; (2) vehicles powered by
233 electricity; (3) bicycles with motors attached;
234 (4) motorcycles; (5) vehicles operating with a
235 temporary registration; (6) vehicles manufactured
236 [before the 1968 model year] TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE
237 YEARS AGO; (7) new vehicles at the time of initial
238 registration; (8) vehicles registered but not
239 designed primarily for highway use; (9) farm
240 vehicles, as defined in subsection (q) of section
241 14-49; (10) antique, rare or special interest
242 motor vehicles, as defined in section 14-1, AS
243 AMENDED; (11) diesel-powered type II school buses.
244 The commissioner may require emissions inspection
245 and compliance or waiver prior to completion of
246 the sale and registration of a motor vehicle over
247 one year old. If the Commissioner of Environmental
248 Protection finds that it is necessary to inspect
249 motor vehicles which are exempt under subdivision
250 (1) of this subsection in order to achieve
251 compliance with federal law concerning emission
252 reduction requirements, the Commissioner of Motor
253 Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance with
254 the provisions of chapter 54, to require the
255 inspection of motorcycles or designated motor
256 vehicles having a gross weight of more than ten
257 thousand pounds.

258 Sec. 5. Subsection (g) of section 14-164c of
259 the general statutes is repealed and the following
260 is substituted in lieu thereof:

261 (g) The commissioner, with approval of the
262 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
263 shall establish, and from time to time modify, the

264 inspection fees, not to exceed ten dollars per
265 inspection, required pursuant to this chapter for
266 inspections performed at official emissions
267 inspection stations. If the costs to the state of
268 the emissions inspection program, including
269 administrative costs and payments to any
270 independent contractor, exceed the income from
271 such inspection fees, such excess costs shall be
272 borne by the state. Any person whose vehicle has
273 been inspected at an official emissions inspection
274 station shall, if such vehicle is found not to
275 comply with any required standards, have the
276 vehicle repaired and have the right within thirty
277 consecutive calendar days to return such vehicle
278 for one reinspection without charge, provided,
279 where the thirtieth day falls on any day when the
280 official emissions inspection station is closed
281 for business, such person may return his vehicle
282 for reinspection on the next day on which such
283 station is open for business. The commissioner
284 shall assess a late fee of twenty dollars for the
285 emissions inspection of a motor vehicle performed
286 at an official emissions inspection station later
287 than thirty days after the expiration date of the
288 assigned inspection period provided he may waive
289 such late fee when it is proven to his
290 satisfaction that the failure to have the vehicle
291 inspected within thirty days of the assigned
292 inspection period was due to exigent
293 circumstances. IF OWNERSHIP OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE
294 HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED SUBSEQUENT TO THE EXPIRATION
295 DATE OF THE ASSIGNED INSPECTION PERIOD AND THE NEW
296 OWNER HAS SUCH MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTED WITHIN
297 THIRTY DAYS OF THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF SUCH
298 MOTOR VEHICLE, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL WAIVE THE
299 LATE FEE. If the thirtieth day falls on any day
300 when the official emissions inspection station is
301 closed for business, such vehicle may be inspected
302 on the next day on which such station is open for
303 business and no late fee shall be assessed. Fifty
304 per cent of such late fees received by the
305 commissioner pursuant to this subsection shall be
306 deposited in the General Fund and the remainder
307 shall be deposited in the Emissions Enterprise
308 Fund. The ten-dollar fee imposed pursuant to this
309 subsection shall terminate at the expiration of
310 the negotiated agreement in effect on June 1,
311 1992. The commissioner shall then establish a

312 temporary inspection fee to remain in effect until
313 such time as the General Assembly establishes a
314 new fee.

315 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 14-166 of
316 the general statutes is repealed and the following
317 is substituted in lieu thereof:

318 (a) [No certificate of title need be obtained
319 for] THE ACQUISITION OF A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
320 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED AND THE ISSUANCE OF A
321 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE BY THE COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR
322 VEHICLES SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING:
323 (1) A vehicle owned by the United States, unless
324 it is registered in this state; (2) a vehicle
325 owned by a manufacturer or dealer and held for
326 sale, even though incidentally moved on the
327 highway or used for purposes of testing or
328 demonstration; or a vehicle used by a manufacturer
329 solely for testing; (3) a vehicle owned by a
330 nonresident of this state and not required by law
331 to be registered in this state; (4) a vehicle
332 regularly engaged in the interstate transportation
333 of persons or property for which a currently
334 effective certificate of title has been issued in
335 another state; (5) a vehicle moved solely by
336 animal power; (6) an implement of husbandry; (7)
337 special mobile equipment; (8) a self-propelled
338 wheel chair or invalid tricycle; (9) any trailer
339 having a gross weight not in excess of three
340 thousand pounds; [(10) any vehicle, manufactured
341 prior to 1970, excluding commercial tractors and
342 including, but not limited to, commercial vehicles
343 having a gross weight not in excess of eighteen
344 thousand pounds; (11)] (10) any vehicle for which
345 a temporary registration has been issued pursuant
346 to section 14-12 for the purpose of permitting a
347 nonresident owner who purchases a vehicle in
348 Connecticut to transport such vehicle to such
349 owner's home state; [(12)] (11) a motor vehicle
350 owned by the state or any town, city or borough
351 within the state; [(13)] (12) a motor vehicle
352 registered temporarily for inspection purposes
353 pursuant to section 14-12. THE ACQUISITION OF A
354 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR ANY VEHICLE MANUFACTURED
355 PRIOR TO 1981 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED. THE
356 COMMISSIONER, IN HIS DISCRETION, MAY ISSUE SUCH
357 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR SUCH A VEHICLE.

358 Sec. 7. Section 1 of public act 97-236 is

359 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
360 thereof:

361 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the
362 request of any veteran, as defined in subsection
363 (a) of section 27-103, or the surviving spouse of
364 such veteran, shall register any [passenger] motor
365 vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least
366 one year by such person and shall issue a special
367 certificate of registration and a set of number
368 plates for each such vehicle. The plates shall
369 expire and be renewed as provided in section
370 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for
371 such plates which shall cover the entire cost of
372 making the same and which shall be in addition to
373 the fee for registration of [the] SUCH motor
374 vehicle.

375 Sec. 8. Subsection (g) of section 13b-59 of
376 the general statutes, as amended by section 7 of
377 public act 97-62, is repealed and the following is
378 substituted in lieu thereof:

379 (g) "Motor vehicle related fines, penalties
380 or other charges" means all fines, penalties or
381 other charges required by, or levied pursuant to
382 subsection (a) of section 14-12, sections 14-13,
383 14-16, 14-17, 14-18, 14-26, 14-27, AS AMENDED and
384 14-29, subsection (d) of section 14-35 and
385 sections 14-36, AS AMENDED, 14-39, 14-43, 14-45,
386 14-64, 14-80, 14-81, 14-82, 14-97, 14-98, 14-99,
387 14-101, 14-102, 14-103, 14-104, 14-105, 14-106,
388 14-110, 14-111, 14-112, 14-137a, 14-140, 14-145,
389 14-146, 14-147, 14-148, 14-149, 14-150, 14-151,
390 14-152, 14-161, [14-164a,] 14-196, 14-197, 14-198,
391 14-213, 14-214, AS AMENDED, 14-215, AS AMENDED,
392 14-216, 14-217, 14-218a, 14-219, 14-220, 14-221,
393 14-222, 14-223, 14-224, AS AMENDED, 14-225,
394 14-226, 14-228, 14-230, 14-231, 14-232, 14-233,
395 14-234, 14-235, 14-236, 14-237, 14-238, 14-239,
396 14-240, 14-241, 14-242, 14-243, 14-244, 14-245,
397 14-246a, 14-247, 14-249, 14-250, 14-257, 14-260,
398 14-261, 14-262, AS AMENDED, 14-264, 14-267a,
399 14-269, subsection (f) of section 14-270, sections
400 14-271, 14-273, 14-274, 14-275, 14-276, 14-277,
401 14-279, 14-280, 14-281, 14-282, 14-283, 14-285,
402 14-286, AS AMENDED, 14-295, 14-296, 14-300,
403 14-314, 14-329, 14-331, 14-342, 14-386, 14-386a,
404 14-387, 15-7, 15-8, 15-9, 15-16, 15-25 and 15-33.

405 Sec. 9. (NEW) (a) On and after January 1,
406 1999, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall

407 issue Amistad commemorative number plates of a
408 design to enhance public awareness of the 1839
409 uprising against the crew of the Spanish slave
410 schooner, The Amistad. Said design shall be
411 determined by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.
412 No use shall be made of such plates except as
413 official registration marker plates.

414 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
415 adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54
416 of the general statutes, which shall provide for a
417 one-time fee of fifty dollars to be charged for
418 Amistad commemorative number plates, in addition
419 to the regular fee or fees prescribed for the
420 registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars
421 of such one-time fee shall be deposited in an
422 account controlled by the Department of Motor
423 Vehicles to be used for administrative costs of
424 carrying out the provisions of this subsection.
425 Such number plates shall have letters and numbers
426 selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.
427 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a
428 higher fee for: (1) Such number plates which
429 contain letters in place of numbers as authorized
430 by section 14-49 of the general statutes, as
431 amended, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed
432 for plates issued under said section 14-49; and
433 (2) such number plates which are low number
434 plates, in accordance with section 14-160 of the
435 general statutes, in addition to the fee or fees
436 prescribed for plates issued under said section
437 14-160. All fees established and collected
438 pursuant to this section, except moneys designated
439 for administrative costs of the Department of
440 Motor Vehicles, shall be deposited in the Amistad
441 commemorative account established pursuant to
442 section 10 of this act.

443 (c) No additional renewal fee shall be
444 charged for renewal of registration for any motor
445 vehicle bearing Amistad commemorative number
446 plates which contain letters in place of numbers,
447 or low number plates, in excess of the renewal fee
448 for Amistad commemorative number plates with
449 letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner
450 of Motor Vehicles. No transfer fee shall be
451 charged for transfer of an existing registration
452 to or from a registration with Amistad
453 commemorative number plates.

454 (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
455 adopt regulations in accordance with the
456 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
457 to establish standards and procedures for the
458 issuance, renewal and replacement of Amistad
459 commemorative number plates.

460 Sec. 10. (a) There is established an account
461 to be known as the "Amistad commemorative account"
462 which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account
463 within the General Fund. The account shall contain
464 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the
465 account.

466 (b) The moneys in said account shall be
467 expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy
468 and Management for the purposes of: (1) Innovative
469 community programs to further the goal of
470 informing the public of the 1839 uprising against
471 the crew of the Spanish slave schooner, The
472 Amistad, and the United States Supreme Court case
473 that arose from such uprising; (2) allocation of
474 grants to agencies, institutions or persons to
475 conduct research, provide public education,
476 establish outreach programs and enhance public
477 awareness of the Amistad uprising and its place in
478 Connecticut's history; and (3) reimbursement to
479 the Department of Motor Vehicles for the cost of
480 producing, issuing, renewing and replacing Amistad
481 commemorative number plates, including
482 administrative expenses, pursuant to section 9 of
483 this act.

484 (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
485 Management may receive private donations to said
486 account and any such receipts shall be deposited
487 in said account.

488 (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
489 provide for the reproduction and marketing of the
490 Amistad commemorative number plate image for use
491 on clothing, recreational equipment, posters,
492 mementoes or other products or programs deemed by
493 the commissioner to be suitable as a means of
494 supporting the Amistad commemorative account. Any
495 moneys received by the commissioner from such
496 marketing shall be deposited in said account.

497 Sec. 11. (a) There is established a task
498 force to study reflectorized safety number plates.
499 The task force shall study the feasibility of a
500 state-wide license plate reissuance for passenger
501 and commercial vehicles. Such study shall include,

502 but not be limited to: (1) The impact on the
503 reduction of unregistered and uninsured motor
504 vehicles; (2) the impact on state and local
505 revenue; (3) the rescheduling of the current time
506 table for registration renewals; (4) the
507 prevention of registration sticker theft; and (5)
508 the benefits of adopting the use of a fully
509 reflectorized safety number plate.

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

512 (1) The chairmen of the joint standing
513 committee of the General Assembly having
514 cognizance of matters relating to transportation,
515 or their designees;

516 (2) The chairmen of the joint standing
517 committee of the General Assembly having
518 cognizance of matters relating to insurance, or
519 their designees;

520 (3) The chairmen of the joint standing
521 committee of the General Assembly having
522 cognizance of matters relating to public safety,
523 or their designees;

524 (4) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or
525 his designee;

526 (5) The Commissioner of Public Safety, or his
527 designee;

528 (6) The Commissioner of Correction, or his
529 designee;

530 (7) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
531 Management, or his designee;

532 (8) A representative of the Connecticut
533 Chiefs of Police Association to be appointed by
534 the speaker of the House of Representatives; and

535 (9) A representative of a police trooper
536 organization to be appointed by the president pro
537 tempore of the Senate.

538 (c) All appointments to the task force shall
539 be made no later than thirty days after the
540 effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
541 be filled by the appointing authority.

542 (d) The speaker of the House of
543 Representatives and the president pro tempore of
544 the Senate shall select the chairmen of the task
545 force, from among the members of the task force.
546 Such chairmen shall schedule the first meeting of
547 the task force, which shall be held no later than
548 sixty days after the effective date of this
549 section.

550 (e) The administrative staff of the joint
551 standing committee of the General Assembly having
552 cognizance of matters relating to transportation
553 shall serve as administrative staff of the task
554 force.

555 (f) Not later than January 1, 1999, the task
556 force shall submit a report on its findings and
557 recommendations to the joint standing committee of
558 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
559 relating to transportation, in accordance with the
560 provisions of section 11-4a of the general
561 statutes. The task force shall terminate on the
562 date that it submits such report or January 1,
563 1999, whichever is earlier.

564 Sec. 12. This act shall take effect from its
565 passage, except that sections 1 to 10, inclusive,
566 shall take effect October 1, 1998.

567 TRA COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 23 NAY 0 JFS C/R FIN
568 FIN COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 42 NAY 0 JFS

* * * * *

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF 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 HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

* * * * *

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 337

STATE IMPACT	Significant Revenue Loss (Transportation and Emissions Funds), Potential Significant Cost (Emissions Fund), Revenue Gain (Amistad Commemorative Account), Offsetting Costs (Transportation Fund), Other Minimal Fiscal Impacts, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	Minimal Workload Increase, see explanation below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of Policy and Management, and Other State Agencies

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE AND MUNICIPAL IMPACT: This legislation has several fiscal impacts most notably Section 4 which would have a revenue loss to the Emissions Enterprise Fund of \$100,000 and Section 5 which would have a revenue loss to the Transportation Fund of \$1.0 million. Sections 9 and 10 establish the Amistad Commemorative account which would be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund and allows the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) Commissioner to issue special Amistad commemorative license plates. Below is a brief description of each section and its corresponding impact.

Section 1 - Allows the DMV Commissioner to issue "Sample" marker plates. Since the Commissioner would

be allowed to impose a fee to cover the costs of issuance, no impact on the Department is anticipated.

Section 2 - Requires vehicles registered as "farm" to have mounted tires that are in safe operating condition. No fiscal impact on the DMV is anticipated.

Section 3 - Allows motor vehicle racing to take place before noon on Sundays when approval is granted by the local governing body of the municipality in which the race will be held. No impact is anticipated on the DMV. Minimal workload increase, which can be performed within the municipalities available resources, is anticipated.

Section 4 - Exempts vehicles manufactured 25 or more years ago from emissions testing. The model years exempted would be from 1968 through 1973. In FY 1999, the 1974 model year, etc. would be included. Vintage motor vehicles are tested annually. Based on 1996 and 1997 data, 10,000 automobiles could be affected. At \$10 per test, the revenue loss to the Emissions Enterprise Fund could be \$100,000. Moreover, according to the emissions contract, the contractor must be reimbursed for reduced volume resulting from legislative action. Therefore, an additional \$188,500 may have to be paid to Envirotest, the emissions contractor.

Section 5 - Eliminates the \$20 late fee if a motor vehicle has been transferred to a new owner after the 30-day expiration period for emissions testing. Approximately, 50,000 motor vehicles are transferred annually with expired stickers. The estimated revenue loss to the Transportation Fund is \$1.0 million.

Section 6 - Eliminates the statutory requirement for motor vehicles which were manufactured before 1981 to obtain a certificate of title. Current law exempts vehicles manufactured prior to 1970 from this provision. 1981 is the year that a vehicle's identification number was standardized to contain 17 digits. Since not too many vehicles are expected to be affected by this exemption, and since the DMV Commissioner may continue to issue titles at his discretion, passage of this bill would have a minimal revenue loss to the Transportation Fund.

Section 7 - Allows for the issuance of a veteran's plate in other classifications. Current law allows for the issuance of veteran's plates for passenger motor vehicles only. A minimal revenue gain to the Transportation Fund is anticipated from the additional \$7.50 fee for veteran's plates.

Section 8 - Removes Section 14-164a from the Transportation Fund statutes. Thus, by default the fines for violating the laws on racing events would be deposited in the General Fund instead of the Transportation Fund. It also eliminates the special 50% surcharge on the fine.

Potential revenue loss to the Transportation Fund and potential revenue gain to the General Fund. However, no fines have been imposed under the motor vehicle racing statute.

Sections 9 and 10 - Requires the DMV Commissioner to issue Amistad Commemorative number plates beginning on January 1, 1999. It also requires the Commissioner to adopt regulations which would require a one-time \$50 fee in addition to the regular registration fee. The Commissioner may establish a higher fee for certain number plates. These fees are to be deposited in the Amistad Commemorative account which is a separate non lapsing account within the General Fund to be administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The adoption of regulations will be handled by the DMV within existing resources. Since the bill includes that \$15 of the one-time fee is to be deposited in a DMV account to cover the costs of producing, issuing, renewing and replacing the Amistad Commemorative number plates as well as its associated administrative expenses, DMV costs will be offset by the fee.

Section 11 - Establishes a task force to study reflectorized safety number plates and the feasibility of state-wide license plate reissuance for passenger and commercial motor vehicles. The task force is to submit a report to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 1999. Costs of the task force are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within Legislative Management's budgetary resources.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 337

AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES

SUMMARY: With respect to several laws governing the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the programs it administers, and motor vehicles generally, this bill:

1. allows all types of motor vehicles owned or leased for one year or longer by a veteran or the veteran's surviving spouse, instead of just passenger vehicles, to qualify for special veteran's license plates;
2. requires the DMV commissioner to issue special Amistad commemorative license plates beginning January 1, 1999 and dedicates the additional fees from these plates for programs to enhance public awareness of the historical events relating to the slave rebellion on The Amistad;
3. requires tires on farm vehicles to be in safe operating condition in accordance with requirements that apply to other motor vehicles;
4. allows the commissioner to issued permits for motor vehicle racing events to begin before Noon on Sundays, as long as the municipality in which the race is held has approved, and makes fines for violating the laws on racing events payable to the General Fund instead of the Special Transportation Fund and eliminates the special 50% surcharge on the fine;
5. exempts any vehicle that is 25 years old or older from emissions inspection requirements, instead of only vehicles manufactured before 1968;
6. requires the commissioner to waive the \$20 late inspection fee for a motor vehicle the ownership of which is transferred after its emission sticker has expired, provided the new

owner brings it in for inspection within 30 days of the ownership transfer;

7. creates a 12-member task force to study reflectorized license plates and the issues related to a general reissue of license plates for passenger and commercial vehicles, and the possibility of using fully reflectorized license plates, and make recommendations to the Transportation Committee;
8. eliminates a requirement that vehicles manufactured between 1970 and 1981 have certificates of title and gives the commissioner authority to issue them at his discretion; and
9. allows the commissioner to issue a facsimile Connecticut license plate bearing the legend "Sample", impose a fee sufficient to cover the costs of making and issuing the plates, and prohibits them from being displayed on a vehicle or used as an official registration marker.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998 except for the task force which is effective upon passage.

FURTHER EXPLANATION

Amistad Commemorative Plates

The DMV commissioner must determine the design of the Amistad commemorative plates. The design must enhance public awareness of the 1839 uprising against the crew of the Spanish slave ship, the Amistad. The plates may be used for no other purpose than as an official registration marker plate, but the commissioner may provide for reproducing and marketing the Amistad plate image for clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementos, and other products or programs he deems suitable.

Plate Fees. The bill requires the commissioner to adopt implementing regulations establishing standards and procedures for issuing, renewing, and replacing Amistad commemorative plates and for a one time initial issuance fee of \$50 in addition to the regular

registration. The bill allows the commissioner to retain \$15 of the \$50 fee in a separate account to pay administrative costs for the program. The commissioner may set higher additional fees if someone requests personalized ("vanity") or low number (1-10,000) Amistad plates that must be in addition to the extra fees already prescribed for such plate.

The commissioner may charge no additional fee for Amistad plate renewals other than the normal fees that apply to the type of registration being renewed. He also may not charge a transfer fee when someone changes to or from another registration plate and an Amistad plate.

Amistad Commemorative Account. The bill creates an Amistad Commemorative Account into which go (1) all plate fees, except for the amounts DMV retains for administrative expenses, (2) all revenue generated from marketing the Amistad plate image; and (3) any private donations the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may receive for the account. The secretary may use the money in the account for (1) innovative community programs for furthering public awareness of the slave uprising that took place on The Amistad and the Supreme Court case that arose from the uprising; (2) grants to agencies, institutions, and individuals to do research, public education, outreach programs and enhance public awareness of the event and its place in Connecticut history; and (3) reimbursement to the DMV for the costs of producing, issuing, and replacing the plates and for administering the program

Farm Vehicle Tires

By law, motor vehicles driven on public highways must have tires in safe operating condition, which among other things means they must have a minimum tread depth of 1/16th of an inch, have no sizable cuts reaching the tire cord, and no bumps or bulges related to structural failure. Currently, vehicles registered for use exclusively for farm purposes are exempt from the requirement. The bill removes the exemption.

Motor Vehicle Racing Events

Anyone intending to conduct a motor vehicle racing event (cars, trucks, motorcycles, or motorcross) must

get a DMV permit and meet other requirements. Currently, racing events may be conducted at any "reasonable hour" on a weekday and after Noon on a Sunday. The bill allows DMV to issue permits for Sunday events that begin before Noon as long as the legislative body of the municipality in which the event will be held gives its approval and it is not contrary to any local ordinances.

Currently, fines for violating requirements applicable to racing events (\$200 maximum) go into the Special Transportation Fund (STF) and are subject to the special 50% STF surcharge. The bill places them, instead, in the General Fund and in the process, eliminates the special surcharge.

Reflectorized License Plate Task Force

The task force must study the feasibility of a general reissue of license plates for passenger and commercial vehicles. Among the things it must examine are (1) the effect this would have on reducing the number of unregistered and uninsured vehicles, (2) the effect on state and local revenue, (3) rescheduling the current registration renewal timetable, (4) preventing registration expiration sticker theft, and (5) benefits of using fully reflectorized license plates. (Current license plates are considered to be partially, not fully reflectorized.) The task force must present a report of its findings and recommendations to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 1999 and terminates on that date or when it submits the report if this occurs sooner.

The task force consists of cochairmen of the Transportation, Insurance and Real Estate, and Public Safety Committees or their designees; the commissioners of the Departments of Motor Vehicles, Public Safety, and Correction, or their designees; the OPM secretary or his designee; a representative of the Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association appointed by the House speaker; and a representative of a police trooper organization appointed by the Senate president pro tempore.

Appointments must be made within 30 days of the requirement becoming effective and the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the task

force chairmen who must schedule the first meeting within 60 days of the effective date of the task force requirements.

The Transportation Committee staff must provide administrative support for the task force.

Title Certificates for Older Vehicles

Currently, motor vehicles manufactured before 1970, including commercial vehicles up to 18,000 pounds, but not including commercial tractors, do not have to have certificates of title. The bill exempts all vehicles manufactured before 1981 from mandatory title requirements, but allows the DMV commissioner the discretion to issue them for pre-1981 vehicles if he so chooses.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 23 Nay 0

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 42 Nay 0