

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1103

AN ACT CONCERNING EMISSIONS AND DECIBEL LEVEL TESTING, THE
TAXATION OF CERTAIN MOTORCYCLES AND PARTS AND THE PASSPORT

Title: TO THE PARKS FEE.

Vote Date: 4/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 4/20/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of the bill is to require emission testing on motorcycles and to require that all vehicles noise levels be tested to ensure that they meet the requirements set by the DEEP and DMV. The bill would also increase the sales and use tax rate to 50% for sales of motorcycles that exceed the maximum allowable noise level and for the use of aftermarket motorcycle mufflers that exceed the noise level. The DEEP and DMV would be responsible for developing the testing programs specifications, requirements and penalties.

Another purpose of this bill is to limit the Passport to the Parks pass to one vehicle per owner.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commissioner Katie Sykes, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection – Opposed

Commissioner Sykes testified that including motorcycles in the I/M program will provide minimal air quality benefits as these vehicles account for less than 0.5% of particulate emissions and about 1% of nitrogen oxide emissions from all on-road mobile sources in Connecticut. She stated that DEEP instead favors policies that seek to further reduce emissions from the medium and heavy-duty vehicle sector as well as promoting vehicle electrification efforts.

Commissioner Sykes further stated that DEEP has no expertise to establish standards or to evaluate noise complaints as funding for the noise program was eliminated in 1983. Establishing noise standards for motorcycles, which would not differ significantly from DMV's existing standards, would require DEEP to hire a noise consultant. Additionally, DEEP enforcement staff do not have the equipment or training to enforce noise limitations and are fully committed to other enforcement related activities

Commissioner Sykes testified that by reducing the Passport to the Parks fee to one per vehicle per owner it would eliminate a substantial amount of revenue, perhaps close to one-half, and require that we significantly curtail the staff-intensive services we provide to the public, which would result in the closure of campgrounds, museums and nature centers, elimination of lifeguards, and the reduction in fulltime and seasonal staff funded by the Passport to the Parks Account (35 full-time and roughly 550 seasonal employees).

Commissioner Sibongile Magubane, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, Opposed.

Commissioner Magubane testified in opposition of removing the exemption of requiring motorcycles to undergo emissions testing. She testified that the DMV agrees with the testimony provided by DEEP, which states that this change would provide minimal air quality benefits, as motorcycles account for less than 0.5% of particulate emissions, and about 1% of nitrogen oxide emissions. Next, DMV's Emissions Program vendor does not have the requisite expertise, or station network, for implementation and administration, of a maximum decibel testing program. She stated that implementation of a decibel testing program will require a comprehensive analysis of the emissions station testing network, given that there are specific requirements that must be met.

The Commissioner also testified in opposition to Section 10, of the proposed bill, which provides that any person registering, or renewing a motor vehicle registration, shall only be required to pay the Park Passport fee for one vehicle. This provision will have a negative fiscal impact on the state, resulting in a substantial loss of revenue collected by the DMV.

Melissa McCaw Secretary Office of Policy and Management – Opposed

Secretary McCaw testified that by Implementing the proposed new motorcycle emission inspection program and the motor vehicle decibel level inspection program would result in substantial unbudgeted administrative costs to the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The associated costs include but are not limited to entering into a contract with an emission vendor to add as a service the additional tests and equipping of emissions stations with decibel measuring equipment. Furthermore, the Passport to Parks Fund would take a substantial undetermined revenue loss by limiting the Passport to the Parks fee to one vehicle. The reduction of revenue to this fund would reduce the Connecticut State Park system's resources and require appropriations from the General Fund.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The following people testified in opposition of Section 10 of SB1103 which proposes that the \$5/year vehicle registration fee paid to the DMV for each vehicle owned in the future be charged on just a single vehicle owned by a multi-car owner. Currently Connecticut's Department of Motor Vehicles tracks fees per vehicle, not per individual.

This change would cut funding for State Parks by 50% or more, which would undermine funding for State Parks that provide great environmental, recreational and economic value to our state. This would likely result in Park closures, and closure of campgrounds and other public Park amenities. Passage of this bill puts the burden of paying for State Parks on the backs of single car owners.

They requested that the Passport to the Parks stays intact, with no exemptions or diversions, as was proposed in the Governor's FY 2022-23 Budget.

Tim Abbott, Housatonic Valley Associates

Pamela Aey Adams, Colchester
Mary and David Ahlgren, Glastonbury
Robert Amatrudo, South Windsor
Amanda Arce, Marlborough
Erik Assadourian, Middletown
Nancy Bajek, Southington
Lee and Chris Barba
Daniel Becce, West Hartford
Julie Beman, Wethersfield
David Bergmann, West Hartford
Anne Bingham and Ted Esselstyn, Higganum
Ann Blake, Cheshire
Jeffrey Borne
Mary Lou Bowen, Ivoryton

Alexander Bradley, Lebanon
Rusty Brockman and Josie McGehee, Southbury

Thomas Broderick, Trumbull
Tracey Brooks, Branford
Paul Bukowsky, Clinton
Erica Caldwell, Norwalk
Heidi and John Campbell, Madison
Maeleah Carlisle, Newington
Eric and Deborah Carson, Cheshire
William Case, New Hartford
Rachel Catanese, West Hartford
Kyle Champney, Shelton
Sarah Jane Compton, Woodbridge
William and Karyn Cordner, West Simsbury
Tom Crider, Southbury

Connie Manes, Housatonic Valley Associates

Tom Adamski, Southbury
Janet and Keith Ainsworth, Guilford
Colin Antaya, New Haven
Steven Arnold, West Hartford
Laurie Averill, Killingsworth
Janet Bannister, Coventry
John Barnowski, Colchester
Judy Belaval, Wallingford
Mark & Anita Bennett, Clinton
Renee Betar, Litchfield
David Bingham, MD – Salem
Christine Bonner, Madison
Carol Borsari
Andrea and Samuel Bradford & Family
Madison
Jane Brawerman, Middletown
Stephen Broderick, Friends of
Goodwin Forest
Lisa Brodlie, Weston
Caren Brown
Juliet Cain, Darien Pollinator Pathway
Chris & Kelly Callahan, Waterford
Cheryl Cappiali, Milford
Kathleen Carlson, Hamden
G. Clifford Carter, Waterford
Sten Caspersson, Bloomfield
Lisa Celona, Cheshire
Starling Childs, Norfolk
Kristin Connell, Killingworth
David Cover
Beth Critton, West Hartford

R. Richard Croce, Killingworth
Nancy Cummings, Killingworth

Richard Dalterio, Cheshire
Jo Ann Davidson, Westport

Jeanne Davies, CT Resource Conservation & Development

Harcourt Davis, Old Lyme
Catherine Delasco, East Granby
Linda Desrosiers, Milford
Lorraine Donovan
Mike Dudek, Sharon
Maureen Egan, Madison

Dave Ellis, Wallingford
Robert Evans, Rockfall
Elizabeth Florillo, North Haven
Nathan Foley, Marlborough
Ellen Forman, Woodbury
Linda Francois, Bethany
Friends of Sherwood State Park
Daniel Gattey, East Hampton
Stephanie Gatto, Essex
David and Donna Gilroy
Kristina Gossner, Durham
Carol Gould, Harwinton
Eileen Grant, Friends of CT State Parks
Bill Green, Guilford
Martha Greenwood, West Hartford
Patricia Grigg, Hamden
Claudia Gwardyak, Bloomfield
John Halibozek, West Hartford
John Halloran, Killingly
Eric Hammerling, Connecticut Forest & Park Assoc.
Mary Anne Hardy, North Haven
Melanie Hennessey, Branford
Wendolyn Hill, Lyme
Walker Holmes, The Trust for Public Land
Julie Hulten, Sleeping Giant Park Association
Susan Iazard, West Hartford
Madeline Jeffrey, North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance, Inc.
Sarah Jennings, Killingworth
Rene Karas Johnson, Higganum
Paula Jones, Bloomfield
Ralph Kadden, West Hartford
Christopher Kelly, Esq. – Save the Sound
Kelly Kennedy, West Hartford
Michelle Kiley, West Hartford
Joe Kohut, South Windsor

Alice Cruikshank, Bloomfield
Helen Curry, Friends of Seaside State
Park, Inc.

Joyce & Justin Daubar, East Lyme
John Guszkowski, CT Resource
Conservation & Development

Jayne Bauman de Gant
Audrey DesMartin, West Hartford
Maya Dobrynin
Rachel Dorset, Wilton
Christine Edelson
Ed Edelson, First Selectman,
Southbury
Christine Elwell-Garrett, Hartford
Tom Finan, Burlington
Juliet Fleming
John Folsom, Pomfret Center
Kenny Foscue, North Haven
Nicole Freidenfelds, Storrs
Robert Fritsch, Newington
Roger Gatto, Essex
Ellie Gillespie, East Haven
Linda Glovna, Southington
Kevon Gough, Bloomfield
Brock Graham, Old Saybrook
Sister Rosemarie Greco, Litchfield
Jean Green, Guilford
Hannah Gregory, Meriden
Evan Griswold, Old Lyme
Zoltan Gyarfas,

Raymond Hamilton Jr., New London
Kathryn Hanlon, Plantsville
Angela Hawkins Fichter
Audrey Hill, Brookfield
Mary-Michelle Hirschhoff, Bethany
Josee Huang, Farmington
Sharon Huttner, Branford
Steven Jalowiec
Doris Johnson, Windsor
Fred Jones, Hartland Land Trust
Sandra Jones, West Suffield
Juliet Kapsis, East Hartford
L. Dean Kendall, Chester
Karen Kremer, Madison
Franci Knight, Harwinton
Kipen Kolesinskas, Manchester

Liz Ann Koos,, Friends of Sherwood Island State, Inc.

Christine Koster, Prospect/Naugatuck

Bradley & Barbara Kronstat, Guilford

Sharon Lanza, West Hartford

Peter and Donna Larkin, Madison

Comm. David Law, Town of Haddam

David Leff, Collinsville

Michael Lloyd, Washington

Nicholas Lodge, Madison

Maureen Lopez, Madison

Matthew Lubanko, Madison

Theodore Lynn, West Rock Ridge Park Assoc.

Anthony McDonald, Windsor

Connie Manes, The Kent Land Trust

Roy Manstan, East Haddam

William and Diane Marshall, South Windsor

William Marut, Glastonbury

Andrew May, Hartford

Sheils McCarthy, MD

Andrew McKensie, Broad Brook

Fillmore McPherson, Madison

Barbara Mechler, Southbury

Leah Miller, Hamden

Barbara Mingo, New London

Dawn Morin, Woodstock

Thomas Marstan Morse, West Haven

Daniel Mullens, Waterford

Patricia and Joseph Neafsey, Stafford

Rick Newton, Mystic

Janie Palasek, Southington

Don Paradis

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Ct. Land Conservation Council

Susan Pearson, East Hartland

Ellie Perkins, Middletown

Nicole Peterson, Moodus

Susam Pritchett Post, Bloomfield

Meral Prewitt, Concerned Citizens Group

Elaine Quayle, Guilford

David and Janet Rathbun, Northford

Cate& Dave Rauch, Meriden

Katy Reddick

Judy Richey, Glastonbury

Sally Richter, Bloomfield

Jennifer Riggs, West Hartford

Barbara Paul Robinson, Washington

Justin Kopit

Michael Krammen, East Granby

Michelle LaBrecque, Plantsville

Bill Lanzoni, Wallingford

Bruce Laroche, Berlin

Monica Lee, Manchester

Joe Lewerk, Lisbon

Heather Lodge, Madison

Bonnell Lombardi, Washington

Alexandra Lowery, Granby

Brian Lynch

Carleen Mabry, Bethany

Jan Manchester, Simsbury

Allison Mangles, Hamden

Robert Marra, West Haven

F. Michael Martucci, Hamden

Ruth Matthews, Clinton

Robert Mazzawy, South Glastonbury

Daniel McCloskey, Guilford

David McKinnis, Fairfield

Joan McPherson, Madison

Judith Miller, Branford

Nate Minegar, Old Saybrook

Dr. Janice Mooney-Frank, STEM coach

Gian Andrea Morresi, Bridgeport

Melissa Mostowy, Southwest

Conservation District

Irene Murray, Southington

Cynthia Nethercut, Madison

Benjamin Oko, MD, Ridgefield

MaryRose Palumbo, Milford

Timothy Parola, Newington

Craig Patton, Westport

Julie Peck, Bloomfield

Marcia Pessolano, Shelton

Louis Pietig, Westport

Jeremy Pressman, West Hartford

Deborah Prior, Windsor

Cynthia Rabinowitz, NW Conservation District

Margaret Rattray, Madison

Eileen Rausch, West Hartford

Perry Rianhard, Madison

Michelle Kiley, West Hartford

Virginia Rickel Pelletier, Hartford

Mary Lynne Riley

Charles Robinson, Washington

Torrance Robinson, Washington
Robert Roggeveen, West Hartford
Bill Ruel, Old Lyme
Lillian Ruiz, Ct Council on Soil and Water Conservation
Robert and Maryetta Russell, Branford
Peter Sachs, LOWA Boots, LLC
David Sargent, Northford
Denise Savageau, CT. Assoc. of Conservation Dist.
Maureen Scalia, East Haven
Elizabeth Auerbach Schiro, Auerfarm State Park Res.
David Schonfeld, West Hartford
Lorrie and Terry Shaw, Guilford
Liz Shore, Guilford
Pam Bisbee Simonds, Guilford
Darcy Sledge, Westport
Joan Smith, Groton Open Space Assoc.
William Stableford, Madison
Scott Stetler, Danbury
Liane Stevens, Unionville
Donna Stout, Hartford
Conservation Dist.
John Swatt, Jr., Wolcott
Annemarie and Herbert Arnold, Portland
Larry Timmerman, Essex
Laura and Keith Traver, Killingworth
James Trocchi
Sidney Van Zandt, Groton Open Space Assoc.
Wendy Vincent, Friends of Gillette Castle State Park
Eva Vrdoljak and Claude Pryzbysz
Louise Washer, Norwalk River Watershed Assoc.
Rebecca Wasilewski, Meriden
Holly Watson, Hebron
Judith Weiss-Rivera, Madison
Susan Whalen
Heather White, West Haven

Stuart Winqvist, East Hampton
Barbara Wyton, Redding
Mary and Mark Zagorski, Madison
Alan Zbell, Beacon Falls

Ada G. Rodriguez, LPC
Ira Rubenzahl
Jaclyn Ryan, Madison
Laurette Saller, Waterford
Ed Savage, Bloomfield
Star Sayres, East Haddam
Ralph Scarpino, Barkhamsted
Eric Schonenberg, New Fairfield
Mike Schumann, East Granby
Lisa Shea, Columbia
Pam Simmons, Simsbury
Irene Skrybailo, New Milford
Jason Smith, Windsor Locks
Frank and Betsy St. John, Middlefield
Richard Stanley, West Simsbury
Alexandra Stevens, Cos Cob
Brian Stewart, Middletown
Chris Sullivan, Southwest

Elizabeth Swift, Cromwell
Sheryl Thibeault, Vernon
Charles Tracy, Essex
John Triana, Prospect
Mark Turpin
Diane Vandervoot
David Vogt, Berlin

Joseph Wasserman, West Hartford
Pamela Weaver, Avon
David Wemett, Newington
Debra Wheeler, East Hartford
Miles Wickless, West Hartford

Jim Wistman, Sherman
Elizabeth Young, Guilford
Tisha Zawisky, Middletown
David Zomick, MD

The following people testified in opposition to sections 1-9 of the bill which would remove the exemption for emissions testing on motorcycles and establish and enforce noise limits on motorcycles.

Thomas Bush, Canton Center
Daniel Gattey, East Hampton
Ken Gills

William Clarke, New Hartford
Robert Gay, Wilton
Kevin Goodell, Portland

Zoltan Gyarfas,
Art Ingram, Seymour
Frank Podgwaite, North Haven
Patrick Mastrolillo, Charter Oak Motorcycle Club

Joseph Hitchery, Niantic
Felix Planas, Newington
John Ruggirello, Killingly

Reported by: Dawn Silveira

Date: 5/4/21