
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5365

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATES OF TITLE.

SUMMARY

This bill imposes a penalty on out-of-state used motor vehicle dealers that fail to provide certain title documents to in-state buyers in a timely manner, as the bill requires. Specifically, it requires these dealers, within 14 days after delivering a vehicle to an in-state buyer, to give the buyer, or a registration and title processing company, a valid certificate of title, assignment and warranty of title, or other evidence of title, where applicable, that discloses the existence of any lien, security interest, or other encumbrance on the vehicle.

Used motor vehicle dealers who violate the bill's requirements face a fine of up to \$1,000. Under existing law, in-state dealers selling used motor vehicles must provide these documents at the time of sale, and failure to do so is a class B misdemeanor, punishable by up to 6 months in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000 (CGS § 14-62(d)).

The bill also extends the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner's authority to investigate violations of state dealer laws to cover violations of the bill. This means she can, among other things, issue subpoenas, compel testimonies, and order the production of records. The attorney general may also, at the commissioner's request, apply to the Superior Court to enjoin a person from violating the bill's provisions.

The bill also explicitly authorizes the DMV commissioner to enter into agreements with independent contractors to implement electronic titling (e-titling) in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022, except the provision on e-titling is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)