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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 15

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON STATE PARKWAYS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill increases the fine for driving commercial motor vehicles on state parkways where they are prohibited by Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) regulations and codifies this prohibition in statute. Additionally, it prohibits commercial vehicle owners or lessees from allowing these vehicles to be driven on any such parkway. Under the bill, similar to existing regulation, a “commercial motor vehicle” is any vehicle designed or used to transport merchandise or freight and bearing commercial registration.

Existing OSTA regulations prohibit commercial motor vehicles from entering and using limited access highways that are designated as parkways (i.e., the Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways and the Milford Parkway), and a violation of this prohibition is an infraction (CGS § 14-314; Conn. Agencies Regs. § 14-298-249). (The current fine is set at \$50 plus \$42 in surcharges.)

The bill makes violations of its prohibitions punishable by a fine of \$500 for a first violation and \$1,000 for any subsequent violation. The fines must be assessed against the (1) commercial vehicle owner, when the owner, owner’s agent, or owner’s employee was the driver or (2) commercial vehicle lessee, when the lessee, lessee’s agent, or the lessee’s employee was the driver. Similar provisions about responsibility for the fine apply to some other commercial vehicle penalties, such as the penalty for driving overweight vehicles (CGS § 14-267a(f)).

Under the bill, violations are processed through the Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB) (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

**BACKGROUND**

***Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB)***

By law, individuals charged with a motor vehicle violation may, generally, pay the fine through the CIB without appearing in court. Payment is considered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) and is not admissible in any civil or criminal proceeding. If an individual pleads not guilty, the CIB must send the plea and request for trial to the clerk of the geographical area court where the trial is to take place. The practice, procedure, rules of evidence, and burden of proof applicable in criminal proceedings apply in such a trial (CGS § 51-164n).

***Related Bill***

HB 6676, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, increases the fine for operating a commercial vehicle on state parkways in violation of OSTA regulations to \$500 for each violation.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 4 (03/17/2023)