



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 324

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5204

House of Representatives, April 8, 2024

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED VEHICLES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) A person may operate
2 a low-speed vehicle on a highway with an established speed limit of not
3 more than twenty-five miles per hour, unless the traffic authority of any
4 town, city or borough and the Office of State Traffic Administration, as
5 provided in section 14-298 of the general statutes, prohibits or otherwise
6 limits the operation of low-speed vehicles on any highway under the
7 jurisdiction of such traffic authority or office.

8 (b) No person may operate a low-speed vehicle unless such vehicle is
9 equipped in accordance with the requirements of sections 14-80 to 14-
10 106b, inclusive, of the general statutes, except insofar as any
11 requirement of said sections is inapplicable to or inconsistent with the
12 design and equipment standards for low-speed vehicles as required by
13 49 CFR 571.500, as amended from time to time.

14 (c) Any person who operates a low-speed vehicle in violation of any
15 provision of this section shall have committed an infraction.

16 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 14-12 of the general statutes is repealed
17 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

18 (f) (1) The commissioner may refuse to register or issue a certificate
19 of title for a motor vehicle or class of motor vehicles if the commissioner
20 determines that the characteristics of the motor vehicle or class of motor
21 vehicles make it unsafe for highway operation. The commissioner may
22 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
23 implement the provisions of this subsection and the provisions of
24 subsection (h) of this section.

25 (2) The commissioner shall not register a motor vehicle if the
26 commissioner knows that the motor vehicle's equipment fails to comply
27 with the provisions of this chapter, provided nothing contained in this
28 section shall preclude the commissioner from issuing one or more
29 temporary registrations for a motor vehicle not previously registered in
30 this state or from issuing a temporary registration for a motor vehicle
31 under a trade name without a certified copy of the notice required by
32 section 35-1.

33 (3) The commissioner shall not register any motor vehicle, except a
34 platform truck the motive power of which is electricity, or a tractor
35 equipped with solid tires, if it is not equipped with lighting devices as
36 prescribed by this chapter. The registration of any motor vehicle which
37 is not equipped with such prescribed lighting devices is void and money
38 paid for the registration shall be forfeited to the state. Nothing in this
39 subdivision shall prevent the commissioner, at the commissioner's
40 discretion, from registering a motor vehicle not equipped with certain
41 lighting devices if the operation of the vehicle is restricted to daylight
42 use.

43 (4) The commissioner shall not register any motor vehicle or a
44 combination of a motor vehicle and a trailer or semitrailer that exceeds
45 the limits specified in section 14-267a.

46 (5) No motor vehicle registration shall be issued by the commissioner
47 for any motorcycle unless the application for registration is
48 accompanied by sufficient proof, as determined by the commissioner,
49 that the motorcycle is insured for the amounts required by section 14-
50 289f.

51 (6) The commissioner shall not register any motor vehicle which is
52 subject to the federal heavy vehicle use tax imposed under Section 4481
53 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or any subsequent corresponding
54 internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time
55 amended, if the applicant fails to furnish proof of payment of such tax,
56 in a form prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United
57 States.

58 (7) The commissioner shall not issue a certificate of title for a
59 homemade low-speed vehicle or a golf cart that has been retrofitted
60 from the original manufacturer's specifications in an attempt to qualify
61 as a low-speed vehicle.

62 Sec. 3. Section 14-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
63 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

64 Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless
65 another construction is clearly apparent from the language or context in
66 which the term is used or unless the construction is inconsistent with
67 the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

68 (1) "Activity vehicle" means a student transportation vehicle that is
69 used to transport students in connection with school-sponsored events
70 and activities, but is not used to transport students to and from school;

71 (2) "Agricultural tractor" means a tractor or other form of
72 nonmuscular motive power used for transporting, hauling, plowing,
73 cultivating, planting, harvesting, reaping or other agricultural purposes
74 on any farm or other private property, or used for the purpose of
75 transporting, from one farm to another, agricultural implements and
76 farm products, provided the agricultural tractor is not used on any

77 highway for transporting a pay load or for some other commercial
78 purpose;

79 (3) "Antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle" means a motor
80 vehicle twenty years old or older which is being preserved because of
81 historic interest and which is not altered or modified from the original
82 manufacturer's specifications;

83 (4) "Apparent candle power" means an illumination equal to the
84 normal illumination in foot candles produced by any lamp or lamps,
85 divided by the square of the distance in feet between the lamp or lamps
86 and the point at which the measurement is made;

87 (5) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means (A) a fire department
88 vehicle, (B) a police vehicle, or (C) an authorized emergency medical
89 services vehicle, as defined in section 19a-175;

90 (6) "Autocycle" means a motor vehicle that meets the requirements of
91 a motorcycle under 49 CFR Part 571, and (A) does not have more than
92 three wheels in contact with the ground, (B) is designed to be controlled
93 with a steering mechanism and foot pedals for acceleration, braking or
94 shifting, (C) has a seat or seats that are fully or partially enclosed and in
95 which the occupants sit with their legs forward, and (D) is equipped
96 with safety belts, in accordance with section 14-100a, for all occupants;

97 (7) "Auxiliary driving lamp" means an additional lighting device on
98 a motor vehicle used primarily to supplement the general illumination
99 in front of a motor vehicle provided by the motor vehicle's head lamps;

100 (8) "Bulb" means a light source consisting of a glass bulb containing a
101 filament or substance capable of being electrically maintained at
102 incandescence;

103 (9) "Camp trailer" includes any trailer designed for living or sleeping
104 purposes and used exclusively for camping or recreational purposes;

105 (10) "Camp trailer registration" means the type of registration issued
106 to any trailer that is for nonbusiness use and is limited to camp trailers

107 and utility trailers;

108 (11) "Camp vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is regularly used
109 to transport persons under eighteen years of age in connection with the
110 activities of any youth camp, as defined in section 19a-420;

111 (12) "Camper" means any motor vehicle designed or permanently
112 altered in such a way as to provide temporary living quarters for travel,
113 camping or recreational purposes;

114 (13) "Class 1 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with
115 a motor that engages only when the rider operates the electric bicycle's
116 foot pedals, and disengages when the rider stops pedaling or such
117 electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour;

118 (14) "Class 2 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with
119 a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the electric bicycle, and
120 disengages when the brakes are applied or such electric bicycle reaches
121 the speed of twenty miles per hour;

122 (15) "Class 3 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with
123 a motor that engages only when the rider operates the electric bicycle's
124 foot pedals, and disengages when the rider stops pedaling or such
125 electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour;

126 (16) "Combination registration" means the type of registration issued
127 to a motor vehicle used for both private passenger and commercial
128 purposes if such vehicle does not have a gross vehicle weight rating in
129 excess of twelve thousand five hundred pounds;

130 (17) "Commercial driver's license" or "CDL" means a license issued to
131 an individual in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-44a to 14-
132 44m, inclusive, which authorizes such individual to drive a commercial
133 motor vehicle;

134 (18) "Commercial driver's license information system" or "CDLIS"
135 means the national database of holders of commercial driver's licenses
136 established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

137 pursuant to Section 12007 of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act
138 of 1986;

139 (19) "Commercial motor vehicle" means a vehicle designed or used to
140 transport passengers or property, except a vehicle used for farming
141 purposes in accordance with 49 CFR 383.3(d), fire fighting apparatus or
142 an emergency vehicle, as defined in section 14-283, or a recreational
143 vehicle in private use, which (A) has a gross vehicle weight rating of
144 twenty-six thousand and one pounds or more, or a gross combination
145 weight rating of twenty-six thousand and one pounds or more, inclusive
146 of a towed unit or units with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than
147 ten thousand pounds; (B) is designed to transport sixteen or more
148 passengers, including the driver, or is designed to transport more than
149 ten passengers, including the driver, and is used to transport students
150 under the age of twenty-one years to and from school; or (C) is
151 transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in
152 accordance with 49 CFR 172, Subpart F, as amended, or any quantity of
153 a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR Part 73;

154 (20) "Commercial registration" means the type of registration
155 required for any motor vehicle designed or used to transport
156 merchandise, freight or persons in connection with any business
157 enterprise, unless a more specific type of registration is authorized and
158 issued by the commissioner for such class of vehicle;

159 (21) "Commercial trailer" means a trailer used in the conduct of a
160 business to transport freight, materials or equipment whether or not
161 permanently affixed to the bed of the trailer;

162 (22) "Commercial trailer registration" means the type of registration
163 issued to any commercial trailer;

164 (23) "Commissioner" includes the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
165 and any assistant to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles who is
166 designated and authorized by, and who is acting for, the Commissioner
167 of Motor Vehicles under a designation; except that the deputy
168 commissioners of motor vehicles and the Attorney General are deemed,

169 unless the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles otherwise provides, to be
170 designated and authorized by, and acting for, the Commissioner of
171 Motor Vehicles under a designation;

172 (24) "Controlled substance" has the same meaning as provided in
173 section 21a-240 and the federal laws and regulations incorporated in
174 chapter 420b;

175 (25) "Conviction" means an unvacated adjudication of guilt, or a
176 determination that a person has violated or failed to comply with the
177 law in a court of original jurisdiction or an authorized administrative
178 tribunal, an unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure
179 the person's appearance in court, the payment of a fine or court cost, or
180 violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of whether or
181 not the penalty is rebated, suspended or probated;

182 (26) "Dealer" includes any person actively engaged in buying, selling
183 or exchanging motor vehicles or trailers who has an established place of
184 business in this state and who may, incidental to such business, repair
185 motor vehicles or trailers, or cause them to be repaired by persons in his
186 or her employ;

187 (27) "Disqualification" means a withdrawal of the privilege to drive a
188 commercial motor vehicle, which occurs as a result of (A) any
189 suspension, revocation, or cancellation by the commissioner of the
190 privilege to operate a motor vehicle; (B) a determination by the Federal
191 Highway Administration, under the rules of practice for motor carrier
192 safety contained in 49 CFR 386, as amended from time to time, that a
193 person is no longer qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle
194 under the standards set forth in 49 CFR 391, as amended from time to
195 time; or (C) the loss of qualification which follows any of the convictions
196 or administrative actions specified in section 14-44k;

197 (28) "Drive" means to drive, operate or be in physical control of a
198 motor vehicle, including a motor vehicle being towed by another;

199 (29) "Driver" means any person who drives, operates or is in physical

200 control of a commercial motor vehicle, or who is required to hold a
201 commercial driver's license;

202 (30) "Driver's license" or "operator's license" means a valid
203 Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license or a license issued by
204 another state or foreign jurisdiction authorizing the holder thereof to
205 operate a motor vehicle on the highways;

206 (31) "Electric bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with operable foot
207 pedals and an electric motor of fewer than seven hundred fifty watts of
208 power that is either a class 1, class 2 or class 3 bicycle. "Electric bicycle"
209 does not include a dirt bike or an all-terrain vehicle;

210 (32) "Electric foot scooter" means a device (A) that weighs not more
211 than seventy-five pounds, (B) that has two or three wheels, handlebars
212 and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, (C) that is
213 powered by an electric motor and human power, and (D) whose
214 maximum speed, with or without human propulsion on a paved level
215 surface, is not more than twenty miles per hour;

216 (33) "Employee" means any operator of a commercial motor vehicle,
217 including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent or
218 occasional drivers, drivers under contract and independent owner-
219 operator contractors, who, while in the course of operating a commercial
220 motor vehicle, are either directly employed by, or are under contract to,
221 an employer;

222 (34) "Employer" means any person, including the United States, a
223 state or any political subdivision thereof, who owns or leases a
224 commercial motor vehicle, or assigns a person to drive a commercial
225 motor vehicle;

226 (35) "Farm implement" means a vehicle designed and adapted
227 exclusively for agricultural, horticultural or livestock-raising operations
228 and which is not operated on a highway for transporting a pay load or
229 for any other commercial purpose;

230 (36) "Felony" means any offense, as defined in section 53a-25 and

231 includes any offense designated as a felony under federal law;

232 (37) "Fatality" means the death of a person as a result of a motor
233 vehicle accident;

234 (38) "Foreign jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction other than a state of
235 the United States;

236 (39) "Fuels" means (A) all products commonly or commercially
237 known or sold as gasoline, including casinghead and absorption or
238 natural gasoline, regardless of their classification or uses, (B) any liquid
239 prepared, advertised, offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and
240 commercially used, as a fuel in internal combustion engines, which,
241 when subjected to distillation in accordance with the standard method
242 of test for distillation of gasoline, naphtha, kerosene and similar
243 petroleum products by "American Society for Testing Materials Method
244 D-86", shows not less than ten per cent distilled (recovered) below 347°
245 Fahrenheit (175° Centigrade) and not less than ninety-five per cent
246 distilled (recovered) below 464° Fahrenheit (240° Centigrade); provided
247 the term "fuels" does not include commercial solvents or naphthas
248 which distill, by "American Society for Testing Materials Method D-86",
249 not more than nine per cent at 176° Fahrenheit and which have a
250 distillation range of 150° Fahrenheit, or less, or liquefied gases which
251 would not exist as liquids at a temperature of 60° Fahrenheit and a
252 pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute, and (C) any liquid
253 commonly referred to as "gasohol" which is prepared, advertised,
254 offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and commercially used, as
255 a fuel in internal combustion engines, consisting of a blend of gasoline
256 and a minimum of ten per cent by volume of ethyl or methyl alcohol;

257 (40) "Garage" includes every place of business where motor vehicles
258 are, for compensation, received for housing, storage or repair;

259 (41) "Gross vehicle weight rating" or "GVWR" means the value
260 specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a
261 single or a combination (articulated) vehicle. The GVWR of a
262 combination (articulated) vehicle commonly referred to as the "gross

263 combination weight rating" or GCWR is the GVWR of the power unit
264 plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units;

265 (42) "Gross weight" means the light weight of a vehicle plus the
266 weight of any load on the vehicle, provided, in the case of a tractor-
267 trailer unit, "gross weight" means the light weight of the tractor plus the
268 light weight of the trailer or semitrailer plus the weight of the load on
269 the vehicle;

270 (43) "Hazardous materials" has the same meaning as provided in 49
271 CFR 383.5;

272 (44) "Head lamp" means a lighting device affixed to the front of a
273 motor vehicle projecting a high intensity beam which lights the road in
274 front of the vehicle so that it can proceed safely during the hours of
275 darkness;

276 (45) "High-mileage vehicle" means a motor vehicle having the
277 following characteristics: (A) Not less than three wheels in contact with
278 the ground; (B) a completely enclosed seat on which the driver sits; (C)
279 a single or two cylinder, gasoline or diesel engine or an electric-powered
280 engine; and (D) efficient fuel consumption;

281 (46) "Highway" includes any state or other public highway, road,
282 street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway, place or dedicated roadway
283 for bus rapid transit service, under the control of the state or any
284 political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or opened to
285 public travel or other use;

286 (47) "Imminent hazard" means the existence of a condition that
287 presents a substantial likelihood that death, serious illness, severe
288 personal injury or a substantial endangerment to health, property, or the
289 environment may occur before the reasonably foreseeable completion
290 date of a formal proceeding begun to lessen the risk of that death, illness,
291 injury or endangerment;

292 (48) "Intersecting highway" includes any public highway which joins
293 another at an angle whether or not it crosses the other;

294 (49) "Light weight" means the weight of an unloaded motor vehicle
295 as ordinarily equipped and ready for use, exclusive of the weight of the
296 operator of the motor vehicle;

297 (50) "Limited access highway" means a state highway so designated
298 under the provisions of section 13b-27;

299 (51) "Local authorities" includes the board of aldermen, common
300 council, chief of police, warden and burgesses, board of selectmen or
301 other officials having authority for the enactment or enforcement of
302 traffic regulations within their respective towns, cities or boroughs;

303 (52) "Low-speed vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in 49
304 CFR 571.3, as amended from time to time;

305 ~~[(52)]~~ (53) "Maintenance vehicle" means any vehicle in use by the state
306 or by any town, city, borough or district, any state bridge or parkway
307 authority or any public service company, as defined in section 16-1, in
308 the maintenance of public highways or bridges and facilities located
309 within the limits of public highways or bridges;

310 ~~[(53)]~~ (54) "Manufacturer" means (A) a person, whether a resident or
311 nonresident, engaged in the business of constructing or assembling new
312 motor vehicles of a type required to be registered by the commissioner,
313 for operation upon any highway, except a utility trailer, which are
314 offered for sale in this state, or (B) a person who distributes new motor
315 vehicles to new car dealers licensed in this state;

316 ~~[(54)]~~ (55) "Median divider" means an intervening space or physical
317 barrier or clearly indicated dividing section separating traffic lanes
318 provided for vehicles proceeding in opposite directions;

319 ~~[(55)]~~ (56) "Modified antique motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle
320 twenty years old or older which has been modified for safe road use,
321 including, but not limited to, modifications to the drive train,
322 suspension, braking system and safety or comfort apparatus;

323 ~~[(56)]~~ (57) "Motor bus" includes any motor vehicle, except a taxicab,

324 as defined in section 13b-95, operated in whole or in part on any street
325 or highway in a manner affording a means of transportation by
326 indiscriminately receiving or discharging passengers, or running on a
327 regular route or over any portion of a regular route or between fixed
328 termini;

329 [(57)] (58) "Motor home" means a vehicular unit designed to provide
330 living quarters and necessary amenities which are built into an integral
331 part of, or permanently attached to, a truck or van chassis;

332 [(58)] (59) "Motor-driven cycle" means any of the following vehicles
333 that have a seat height of not less than twenty-six inches and a motor
334 having a capacity of less than fifty cubic centimeters piston
335 displacement: (A) A motorcycle, other than an autocycle; (B) a motor
336 scooter; or (C) a bicycle with attached motor, except an electric bicycle;

337 [(59)] (60) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle propelled or drawn by
338 any nonmuscular power, [except] including a low-speed vehicle. "Motor
339 vehicle" does not include aircraft, motor boats, road rollers, baggage
340 trucks used about railroad stations or other mass transit facilities,
341 electric battery-operated wheel chairs when operated by persons with
342 physical disabilities at speeds not exceeding fifteen miles per hour, golf
343 carts operated on highways solely for the purpose of crossing from one
344 part of the golf course to another, golf-cart-type vehicles operated on
345 roads or highways on the grounds of state institutions by state
346 employees, agricultural tractors, farm implements, such vehicles as run
347 only on rails or tracks, self-propelled snow plows, snow blowers and
348 lawn mowers, when used for the purposes for which they were
349 designed and operated at speeds not exceeding four miles per hour,
350 whether or not the operator rides on or walks behind such equipment,
351 motor-driven cycles, as defined in section 14-286, special mobile
352 equipment, as defined in section 14-165, mini-motorcycles, as defined in
353 section 14-289j, electric bicycles, electric foot scooters and any other
354 vehicle not suitable for operation on a highway;

355 [(60)] (61) "Motorcycle" means (A) an autocycle, as defined in this
356 section, or (B) a motor vehicle, with or without a side car, that has (i) not

357 more than three wheels in contact with the ground, (ii) a saddle or seat
358 which the rider straddles or a platform on which the rider stands, and
359 (iii) handlebars with which the rider controls the movement of the
360 vehicle. "Motorcycle" does not include a motor-driven cycle, an electric
361 bicycle or an electric foot scooter;

362 [(61)] (62) "National Driver Registry" or "NDR" means the licensing
363 information system and database operated by the National Highway
364 Traffic Safety Administration and established pursuant to the National
365 Driver Registry Act of 1982, as amended;

366 [(62)] (63) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, the equitable
367 or legal title to which has never been transferred by a manufacturer,
368 distributor or dealer to an ultimate consumer;

369 [(63)] (64) "Nonresident" means any person whose legal residence is
370 in a state other than Connecticut or in a foreign country;

371 [(64)] (65) "Nonresident commercial driver's license" or "nonresident
372 CDL" means a commercial driver's license issued by a state to an
373 individual who resides in a foreign jurisdiction;

374 [(65)] (66) "Nonskid device" means any device applied to the tires,
375 wheels, axles or frame of a motor vehicle for the purpose of increasing
376 the traction of the motor vehicle;

377 [(66)] (67) "Number plate" means any sign or marker furnished by the
378 commissioner on which is displayed the registration number assigned
379 to a motor vehicle by the commissioner;

380 [(67)] (68) "Officer" includes any constable, state marshal, inspector of
381 motor vehicles, state policeman or other official authorized to make
382 arrests or to serve process, provided the officer is in uniform or displays
383 the officer's badge of office in a conspicuous place when making an
384 arrest;

385 [(68)] (69) "Operator" means any person who operates a motor vehicle
386 or who steers or directs the course of a motor vehicle being towed by

387 another motor vehicle and includes a driver;

388 [(69)] (70) "Out-of-service order" means an order (A) issued by a
389 person having inspection authority, as defined in regulations adopted
390 by the commissioner pursuant to section 14-163c, or by an authorized
391 official of the United States Department of Transportation Federal
392 Motor Carrier Safety Administration pursuant to any provision of
393 federal law, to prohibit any motor vehicle specified in subsection (a) of
394 section 14-163c from being operated on any highway, or to prohibit a
395 driver from operating any such motor vehicle, or (B) issued by the
396 United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier
397 Safety Administration, pursuant to any provision of federal law, to
398 prohibit any motor carrier, as defined in Section 386.2 of Title 49 of the
399 Code of Federal Regulations, from engaging in commercial motor
400 vehicle operations;

401 [(70)] (71) "Owner" means any person holding title to a motor vehicle,
402 or having the legal right to register the same, including purchasers
403 under conditional bills of sale;

404 [(71)] (72) "Parked vehicle" means a motor vehicle in a stationary
405 position within the limits of a public highway;

406 [(72)] (73) "Passenger and commercial motor vehicle" means a motor
407 vehicle used for private passenger and commercial purposes which is
408 eligible for combination registration;

409 [(73)] (74) "Passenger motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for
410 the private transportation of persons and their personal belongings,
411 designed to carry occupants in comfort and safety, with a capacity of
412 carrying not more than ten passengers including the operator thereof;

413 [(74)] (75) "Passenger registration" means the type of registration
414 issued to a passenger motor vehicle unless a more specific type of
415 registration is authorized and issued by the commissioner for such class
416 of vehicle;

417 [(75)] (76) "Person" includes any individual, corporation, limited

418 liability company, association, copartnership, company, firm, business
419 trust or other aggregation of individuals but does not include the state
420 or any political subdivision thereof, unless the context clearly states or
421 requires;

422 [(76)] (77) "Pick-up truck" means a motor vehicle with an enclosed
423 forward passenger compartment and an open rearward compartment
424 used for the transportation of property;

425 [(77)] (78) "Pneumatic tires" means tires inflated or inflatable with air;

426 [(78)] (79) "Pole trailer" means a trailer which is (A) intended for
427 transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, logs, pipes
428 or structural members, which loads are capable of sustaining
429 themselves as beams between supporting connections, and (B) designed
430 to be drawn by a motor vehicle and attached or secured directly to the
431 motor vehicle by any means including a reach, pole or boom;

432 [(79)] (80) "Public passenger endorsement" means an endorsement
433 issued to an individual, which authorizes such individual to transport
434 passengers, including, but not limited to, passengers who are students
435 in accordance with subsection (b) or (c) of section 14-36a;

436 [(80)] (81) "Recreational vehicle" includes the camper, camp trailer
437 and motor home classes of vehicles;

438 [(81)] (82) "Registration" includes the certificate of motor vehicle
439 registration and the number plate or plates used in connection with such
440 registration;

441 [(82)] (83) "Registration number" means the identifying number or
442 letters, or both, assigned by the commissioner to a motor vehicle;

443 [(83)] (84) "Resident", for the purpose of registering motor vehicles,
444 includes any person who is a legal resident of this state, as the
445 commissioner may presume from the fact that such person occupies a
446 place of dwelling in this state for more than six months in a year, or any
447 person, firm or corporation owning or leasing a motor vehicle used or

448 operated in intrastate business in this state, or a firm or corporation
449 having its principal office or place of business in this state;

450 [(84)] (85) "School bus" means any school bus, as defined in section
451 14-275, including a commercial motor vehicle used to transport
452 preschool, elementary school or secondary school students from home
453 to school, from school to home, or to and from school-sponsored events,
454 but does not include a bus used as a common carrier;

455 [(85)] (86) "Second" violation or "subsequent" violation means an
456 offense committed not more than three years after the date of an arrest
457 which resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same
458 statutory provision, except in the case of a violation of section 14-215,
459 14-224, 14-227a or 14-227m, "second" violation or "subsequent" violation
460 means an offense committed not more than ten years after the date of an
461 arrest which resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same
462 statutory provision;

463 [(86)] (87) "Semitrailer" means any trailer type vehicle designed and
464 used in conjunction with a motor vehicle so that some part of its own
465 weight and load rests on or is carried by another vehicle;

466 [(87)] (88) "Serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the
467 following offenses: (A) Excessive speeding, involving a single offense in
468 which the speed is fifteen miles per hour or more above the posted
469 speed limit, in violation of section 14-218a or 14-219; (B) reckless driving
470 in violation of section 14-222; (C) following too closely in violation of
471 section 14-240 or 14-240a; (D) improper or erratic lane changes, in
472 violation of section 14-236; (E) using a hand-held mobile telephone or
473 other electronic device or typing, reading or sending text or a text
474 message with or from a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device in
475 violation of subsection (e) of section 14-296aa while operating a
476 commercial motor vehicle; (F) driving a commercial motor vehicle
477 without a valid commercial driver's license in violation of section 14-36a
478 or 14-44a; (G) failure to carry a commercial driver's license in violation
479 of section 14-44a; (H) failure to have the proper class of license or
480 endorsement, or violation of a license restriction in violation of section

481 14-44a; or (I) a violation of any provision of chapter 248, by an operator
482 who holds a commercial driver's license or instruction permit that
483 results in the death of another person;

484 [(88)] (89) "Service bus" includes any vehicle except a vanpool vehicle
485 or a school bus designed and regularly used to carry ten or more
486 passengers when used in private service for the transportation of
487 persons without charge to the individual;

488 [(89)] (90) "Service car" means any motor vehicle used by a
489 manufacturer, dealer or repairer for emergency motor vehicle repairs on
490 the highways of this state, for towing or for the transportation of
491 necessary persons, tools and materials to and from the scene of such
492 emergency repairs or towing;

493 [(90)] (91) "Shoulder" means that portion of a highway immediately
494 adjacent and contiguous to the travel lanes or main traveled portion of
495 the roadway;

496 [(91)] (92) "Solid tires" means tires of rubber, or other elastic material
497 approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, which do not depend
498 on confined air for the support of the load;

499 [(92)] (93) "Spot lamp" or "spot light" means a lighting device
500 projecting a high intensity beam, the direction of which can be readily
501 controlled for special or emergency lighting as distinguished from
502 ordinary road illumination;

503 [(93)] (94) "State" means any state of the United States and the District
504 of Columbia unless the context indicates a more specific reference to the
505 state of Connecticut;

506 [(94)] (95) "Stop" means complete cessation of movement;

507 [(95)] (96) "Student" means any person under the age of twenty-one
508 years who is attending a preprimary, primary or secondary school
509 program of education;

510 [(96)] (97) "Tail lamp" means a lighting device affixed to the rear of a
511 motor vehicle showing a red light to the rear and indicating the presence
512 of the motor vehicle when viewed from behind;

513 [(97)] (98) "Tank vehicle" means any commercial motor vehicle
514 designed to transport any liquid or gaseous material within a tank that
515 is either permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle or its
516 chassis, which includes, but is not limited to, a cargo tank and portable
517 tank, as defined in 49 CFR 383.5, as amended, provided it does not
518 include a portable tank with a rated capacity not to exceed one thousand
519 gallons;

520 [(98)] (99) "Tractor" or "truck tractor" means a motor vehicle designed
521 and used for drawing a semitrailer;

522 [(99)] (100) "Tractor-trailer unit" means a combination of a tractor and
523 a trailer or a combination of a tractor and a semitrailer;

524 [(100)] (101) "Trailer" means any rubber-tired vehicle without motive
525 power drawn or propelled by a motor vehicle;

526 [(101)] (102) "Truck" means a motor vehicle designed, used or
527 maintained primarily for the transportation of property;

528 [(102)] (103) "Ultimate consumer" means, with respect to a motor
529 vehicle, the first person, other than a dealer, who in good faith purchases
530 the motor vehicle for purposes other than resale;

531 [(103)] (104) "United States" means the fifty states and the District of
532 Columbia;

533 [(104)] (105) "Used motor vehicle" includes any motor vehicle which
534 has been previously separately registered by an ultimate consumer;

535 [(105)] (106) "Utility trailer" means a trailer designed and used to
536 transport personal property, materials or equipment, whether or not
537 permanently affixed to the bed of the trailer;

538 [(106)] (107) "Vanpool vehicle" includes all motor vehicles, the

539 primary purpose of which is the daily transportation, on a prearranged
540 nonprofit basis, of individuals between home and work, and which: (A)
541 If owned by or leased to a person, or to an employee of the person, or to
542 an employee of a local, state or federal government unit or agency
543 located in Connecticut, are manufactured and equipped in such manner
544 as to provide a seating capacity of at least seven but not more than
545 fifteen individuals, or (B) if owned by or leased to a regional ride-
546 sharing organization in the state recognized by the Commissioner of
547 Transportation, are manufactured and equipped in such manner as to
548 provide a seating capacity of at least six but not more than nineteen
549 individuals;

550 [(107)] (108) "Vehicle" includes any device suitable for the
551 conveyance, drawing or other transportation of persons or property,
552 whether operated on wheels, runners, a cushion of air or by any other
553 means. The term does not include devices propelled or drawn by human
554 power or devices used exclusively on tracks;

555 [(108)] (109) "Vehicle identification number" or "VIN" means a series
556 of Arabic numbers and Roman letters that is assigned to each new motor
557 vehicle that is manufactured within or imported into the United States,
558 in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 565, unless another
559 sequence of numbers and letters has been assigned to a motor vehicle
560 by the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-
561 149;

562 [(109)] (110) "Wrecker" means a vehicle which is registered, designed,
563 equipped and used for the purposes of towing or transporting wrecked
564 or disabled motor vehicles for compensation or for related purposes by
565 a person, firm or corporation licensed in accordance with the provisions
566 of subpart (D) of part III of this chapter or a vehicle contracted for the
567 consensual towing or transporting of one or more motor vehicles to or
568 from a place of sale, purchase, salvage or repair.

569 Sec. 4. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 14-390f of the
570 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
571 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

572 (1) "All-terrain vehicle" means any three or more wheeled motorized
 573 vehicle, generally characterized by large, low-pressure tires, a seat
 574 designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering,
 575 which is intended for off-road use by an individual rider on various
 576 types of nonpaved terrain. [Such vehicles do] "All-terrain vehicle" does
 577 not include trail bikes, golf carts, agricultural tractors, farm implements,
 578 [and] construction machines and low-speed vehicles;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2024	14-12(f)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2024	14-1
Sec. 4	October 1, 2024	14-390f(a)(1)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "otherwise" was inserted for clarity; and in Section 2, section 14-12 was amended in lieu of section 14-169 for consistency with standard drafting conventions and "in an attempt" was added for clarity.

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the 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 chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill authorizes the operation of "low-speed vehicles" (LSV) on public roads, defines them as "motor vehicles" for purposes of motor vehicle laws, and creates an infraction for improper use.

The bill results in potential revenue gain to the Special Transportation Fund from LSV registration fees, though it is unknown how many will be registered. It also results in potential revenue gain to the General Fund to the extent that infractions occur. Infractions are not crimes and are punishable by fines that usually range from \$100 to \$300.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to LSV registrations and violations for improper use.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5204

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED VEHICLES.

SUMMARY

This bill generally allows the operation of “low-speed vehicles” (LSV) on highways (i.e., public roads) in the state with speed limits of 25 mph or less. Under the bill and federal regulations, an LSV is a four-wheeled motor vehicle that has a (1) speed attainable in one mile of more than 20 mph but not more than 25 mph on a paved, level surface and (2) gross vehicle weight rating of 3,000 pounds or less.

Under the bill, LSVs are “motor vehicles” under state motor vehicle laws (i.e., Title 14 of the General Statutes). This means, among other things, that LSVs must be registered, titled, and insured; their drivers must hold a valid driver’s license; and businesses selling or repairing them must hold dealer or repairer licenses, respectively. Currently, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not register LSVs, and they may not be driven on public roads. The bill prohibits DMV from issuing a title for a homemade LSV or a golf cart that has been retrofitted from the original manufacturer’s specifications in an attempt to qualify as an LSV.

The bill allows the Office of the State Traffic Administration and local traffic authorities to prohibit or limit LSV use on roads under their jurisdictions. It also requires that LSVs meet state motor vehicle equipment standards except for those that are inapplicable to or inconsistent with the federal motor vehicle safety standards for LSVs. Violations of the road restrictions or equipment requirements are infractions (see BACKGROUND).

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Infractions

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the amount of the fine. There may be other added charges depending upon the type of infraction. For example, certain motor vehicle infractions trigger a Special Transportation Fund surcharge of 50% of the fine. An infraction is not a crime, and violators can pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for LSVs

Under federal regulations, LSVs must satisfy certain requirements under specified testing conditions and be equipped with the following:

1. headlights, turn signals, tail lights, and brake lights;
2. reflex reflectors;
3. an exterior mirror on the driver's side and either an exterior mirror on the passenger's side or an interior mirror (in addition to meeting other specified rear visibility requirements);
4. a parking brake;
5. a windshield meeting federal standards on glazing materials;
6. a vehicle identification number (VIN) meeting federal requirements;
7. a seatbelt assembly meeting federal requirements; and
8. a pedestrian alert sound (i.e., noise that certain electric and hybrid vehicles must make at speeds less than 18.6 mph that pedestrians can hear over background noises) (49 C.F.R. § 571.500).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)