



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 447**

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5324

*House of Representatives, April 11, 2024*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING SECONDARY TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) No officer may stop a  
2 vehicle only for a violation of any provision of title 14 of the general  
3 statutes that is a secondary violation. The provisions of this section shall  
4 not prohibit enforcement of a secondary violation by automated  
5 enforcement, by a mailed notice of violation or in the case of a vehicle  
6 stopped for a violation that is not a secondary violation.

7 Sec. 2. Section 14-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
8 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

13 (1) "Activity vehicle" means a student transportation vehicle that is

14 used to transport students in connection with school-sponsored events  
15 and activities, but is not used to transport students to and from school;

16 (2) "Agricultural tractor" means a tractor or other form of  
17 nonmuscular motive power used for transporting, hauling, plowing,  
18 cultivating, planting, harvesting, reaping or other agricultural purposes  
19 on any farm or other private property, or used for the purpose of  
20 transporting, from one farm to another, agricultural implements and  
21 farm products, provided the agricultural tractor is not used on any  
22 highway for transporting a pay load or for some other commercial  
23 purpose;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

50 (10) "Camp trailer registration" means the type of registration issued  
51 to any trailer that is for nonbusiness use and is limited to camp trailers  
52 and utility trailers;

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

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

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

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

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

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

75 (17) "Commercial driver's license" or "CDL" means a license issued to  
76 an individual in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-44a to 14-  
77 44m, inclusive, which authorizes such individual to drive a commercial  
78 motor vehicle;

79 (18) "Commercial driver's license information system" or "CDLIS"  
80 means the national database of holders of commercial driver's licenses  
81 established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
82 pursuant to Section 12007 of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act  
83 of 1986;

84 (19) "Commercial motor vehicle" means a vehicle designed or used to  
85 transport passengers or property, except a vehicle used for farming  
86 purposes in accordance with 49 CFR 383.3(d), fire fighting apparatus or  
87 an emergency vehicle, as defined in section 14-283, or a recreational  
88 vehicle in private use, which (A) has a gross vehicle weight rating of  
89 twenty-six thousand and one pounds or more, or a gross combination  
90 weight rating of twenty-six thousand and one pounds or more, inclusive  
91 of a towed unit or units with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than  
92 ten thousand pounds; (B) is designed to transport sixteen or more  
93 passengers, including the driver, or is designed to transport more than  
94 ten passengers, including the driver, and is used to transport students  
95 under the age of twenty-one years to and from school; or (C) is  
96 transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in  
97 accordance with 49 CFR 172, Subpart F, as amended, or any quantity of  
98 a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR Part 73;

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

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

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

109 (23) "Commissioner" includes the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
110 and any assistant to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles who is  
111 designated and authorized by, and who is acting for, the Commissioner  
112 of Motor Vehicles under a designation; except that the deputy  
113 commissioners of motor vehicles and the Attorney General are deemed,  
114 unless the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles otherwise provides, to be  
115 designated and authorized by, and acting for, the Commissioner of  
116 Motor Vehicles under a designation;

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

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

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

132 (27) "Disqualification" means a withdrawal of the privilege to drive a  
133 commercial motor vehicle, which occurs as a result of (A) any  
134 suspension, revocation, or cancellation by the commissioner of the  
135 privilege to operate a motor vehicle; (B) a determination by the Federal  
136 Highway Administration, under the rules of practice for motor carrier  
137 safety contained in 49 CFR 386, as amended from time to time, that a  
138 person is no longer qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle

139 under the standards set forth in 49 CFR 391, as amended from time to  
140 time; or (C) the loss of qualification which follows any of the convictions  
141 or administrative actions specified in section 14-44k;

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

144 (29) "Driver" means any person who drives, operates or is in physical  
145 control of a commercial motor vehicle, or who is required to hold a  
146 commercial driver's license;

147 (30) "Driver's license" or "operator's license" means a valid  
148 Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license or a license issued by  
149 another state or foreign jurisdiction authorizing the holder thereof to  
150 operate a motor vehicle on the highways;

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

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

161 (33) "Employee" means any operator of a commercial motor vehicle,  
162 including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent or  
163 occasional drivers, drivers under contract and independent owner-  
164 operator contractors, who, while in the course of operating a commercial  
165 motor vehicle, are either directly employed by, or are under contract to,  
166 an employer;

167 (34) "Employer" means any person, including the United States, a  
168 state or any political subdivision thereof, who owns or leases a  
169 commercial motor vehicle, or assigns a person to drive a commercial

170 motor vehicle;

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

175 (36) "Felony" means any offense, as defined in section 53a-25 and  
176 includes any offense designated as a felony under federal law;

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

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

181 (39) "Fuels" means (A) all products commonly or commercially  
182 known or sold as gasoline, including casinghead and absorption or  
183 natural gasoline, regardless of their classification or uses, (B) any liquid  
184 prepared, advertised, offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and  
185 commercially used, as a fuel in internal combustion engines, which,  
186 when subjected to distillation in accordance with the standard method  
187 of test for distillation of gasoline, naphtha, kerosene and similar  
188 petroleum products by "American Society for Testing Materials Method  
189 D-86", shows not less than ten per cent distilled (recovered) below 347°  
190 Fahrenheit (175° Centigrade) and not less than ninety-five per cent  
191 distilled (recovered) below 464° Fahrenheit (240° Centigrade); provided  
192 the term "fuels" does not include commercial solvents or naphthas  
193 which distill, by "American Society for Testing Materials Method D-86",  
194 not more than nine per cent at 176° Fahrenheit and which have a  
195 distillation range of 150° Fahrenheit, or less, or liquefied gases which  
196 would not exist as liquids at a temperature of 60° Fahrenheit and a  
197 pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute, and (C) any liquid  
198 commonly referred to as "gasohol" which is prepared, advertised,  
199 offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and commercially used, as  
200 a fuel in internal combustion engines, consisting of a blend of gasoline  
201 and a minimum of ten per cent by volume of ethyl or methyl alcohol;

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

204 (41) "Gross vehicle weight rating" or "GVWR" means the value  
205 specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a  
206 single or a combination (articulated) vehicle. The GVWR of a  
207 combination (articulated) vehicle commonly referred to as the "gross  
208 combination weight rating" or GCWR is the GVWR of the power unit  
209 plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units;

210 (42) "Gross weight" means the light weight of a vehicle plus the  
211 weight of any load on the vehicle, provided, in the case of a tractor-  
212 trailer unit, "gross weight" means the light weight of the tractor plus the  
213 light weight of the trailer or semitrailer plus the weight of the load on  
214 the vehicle;

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

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

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

226 (46) "Highway" includes any state or other public highway, road,  
227 street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway, place or dedicated roadway  
228 for bus rapid transit service, under the control of the state or any  
229 political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or opened to  
230 public travel or other use;

231 (47) "Imminent hazard" means the existence of a condition that  
232 presents a substantial likelihood that death, serious illness, severe



233 personal injury or a substantial endangerment to health, property, or the  
234 environment may occur before the reasonably foreseeable completion  
235 date of a formal proceeding begun to lessen the risk of that death, illness,  
236 injury or endangerment;

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

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

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

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

248 (52) "Maintenance vehicle" means any vehicle in use by the state or  
249 by any town, city, borough or district, any state bridge or parkway  
250 authority or any public service company, as defined in section 16-1, in  
251 the maintenance of public highways or bridges and facilities located  
252 within the limits of public highways or bridges;

253 (53) "Manufacturer" means (A) a person, whether a resident or  
254 nonresident, engaged in the business of constructing or assembling new  
255 motor vehicles of a type required to be registered by the commissioner,  
256 for operation upon any highway, except a utility trailer, which are  
257 offered for sale in this state, or (B) a person who distributes new motor  
258 vehicles to new car dealers licensed in this state;

259 (54) "Median divider" means an intervening space or physical barrier  
260 or clearly indicated dividing section separating traffic lanes provided  
261 for vehicles proceeding in opposite directions;

262 (55) "Modified antique motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle twenty

263 years old or older which has been modified for safe road use, including,  
264 but not limited to, modifications to the drive train, suspension, braking  
265 system and safety or comfort apparatus;

266 (56) "Motor bus" includes any motor vehicle, except a taxicab, as  
267 defined in section 13b-95, operated in whole or in part on any street or  
268 highway in a manner affording a means of transportation by  
269 indiscriminately receiving or discharging passengers, or running on a  
270 regular route or over any portion of a regular route or between fixed  
271 termini;

272 (57) "Motor home" means a vehicular unit designed to provide living  
273 quarters and necessary amenities which are built into an integral part  
274 of, or permanently attached to, a truck or van chassis;

275 (58) "Motor-driven cycle" means any of the following vehicles that  
276 have a seat height of not less than twenty-six inches and a motor having  
277 a capacity of less than fifty cubic centimeters piston displacement: (A) A  
278 motorcycle, other than an autocycle; (B) a motor scooter; or (C) a bicycle  
279 with attached motor, except an electric bicycle;

280 (59) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle propelled or drawn by any  
281 nonmuscular power, except aircraft, motor boats, road rollers, baggage  
282 trucks used about railroad stations or other mass transit facilities,  
283 electric battery-operated wheel chairs when operated by persons with  
284 physical disabilities at speeds not exceeding fifteen miles per hour, golf  
285 carts operated on highways solely for the purpose of crossing from one  
286 part of the golf course to another, golf-cart-type vehicles operated on  
287 roads or highways on the grounds of state institutions by state  
288 employees, agricultural tractors, farm implements, such vehicles as run  
289 only on rails or tracks, self-propelled snow plows, snow blowers and  
290 lawn mowers, when used for the purposes for which they were  
291 designed and operated at speeds not exceeding four miles per hour,  
292 whether or not the operator rides on or walks behind such equipment,  
293 motor-driven cycles, as defined in section 14-286, special mobile  
294 equipment, as defined in section 14-165, mini-motorcycles, as defined in  
295 section 14-289j, electric bicycles, electric foot scooters and any other

296 vehicle not suitable for operation on a highway;

297 (60) "Motorcycle" means (A) an auticycle, as defined in this section,  
298 or (B) a motor vehicle, with or without a side car, that has (i) not more  
299 than three wheels in contact with the ground, (ii) a saddle or seat which  
300 the rider straddles or a platform on which the rider stands, and (iii)  
301 handlebars with which the rider controls the movement of the vehicle.  
302 "Motorcycle" does not include a motor-driven cycle, an electric bicycle  
303 or an electric foot scooter;

304 (61) "National Driver Registry" or "NDR" means the licensing  
305 information system and database operated by the National Highway  
306 Traffic Safety Administration and established pursuant to the National  
307 Driver Registry Act of 1982, as amended;

308 (62) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, the equitable or  
309 legal title to which has never been transferred by a manufacturer,  
310 distributor or dealer to an ultimate consumer;

311 (63) "Nonresident" means any person whose legal residence is in a  
312 state other than Connecticut or in a foreign country;

313 (64) "Nonresident commercial driver's license" or "nonresident CDL"  
314 means a commercial driver's license issued by a state to an individual  
315 who resides in a foreign jurisdiction;

316 (65) "Nonskid device" means any device applied to the tires, wheels,  
317 axles or frame of a motor vehicle for the purpose of increasing the  
318 traction of the motor vehicle;

319 (66) "Number plate" means any sign or marker furnished by the  
320 commissioner on which is displayed the registration number assigned  
321 to a motor vehicle by the commissioner;

322 (67) "Officer" includes any constable, state marshal, inspector of  
323 motor vehicles, state policeman or other official authorized to make  
324 arrests or to serve process, provided the officer is in uniform or displays  
325 the officer's badge of office in a conspicuous place when making an

326 arrest;

327 (68) "Operator" means any person who operates a motor vehicle or  
328 who steers or directs the course of a motor vehicle being towed by  
329 another motor vehicle and includes a driver;

330 (69) "Out-of-service order" means an order (A) issued by a person  
331 having inspection authority, as defined in regulations adopted by the  
332 commissioner pursuant to section 14-163c, or by an authorized official  
333 of the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor  
334 Carrier Safety Administration pursuant to any provision of federal law,  
335 to prohibit any motor vehicle specified in subsection (a) of section 14-  
336 163c from being operated on any highway, or to prohibit a driver from  
337 operating any such motor vehicle, or (B) issued by the United States  
338 Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
339 Administration, pursuant to any provision of federal law, to prohibit  
340 any motor carrier, as defined in Section 386.2 of Title 49 of the Code of  
341 Federal Regulations, from engaging in commercial motor vehicle  
342 operations;

343 (70) "Owner" means any person holding title to a motor vehicle, or  
344 having the legal right to register the same, including purchasers under  
345 conditional bills of sale;

346 (71) "Parked vehicle" means a motor vehicle in a stationary position  
347 within the limits of a public highway;

348 (72) "Passenger and commercial motor vehicle" means a motor  
349 vehicle used for private passenger and commercial purposes which is  
350 eligible for combination registration;

351 (73) "Passenger motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the  
352 private transportation of persons and their personal belongings,  
353 designed to carry occupants in comfort and safety, with a capacity of  
354 carrying not more than ten passengers including the operator thereof;

355 (74) "Passenger registration" means the type of registration issued to  
356 a passenger motor vehicle unless a more specific type of registration is

357 authorized and issued by the commissioner for such class of vehicle;

358 (75) "Person" includes any individual, corporation, limited liability  
359 company, association, copartnership, company, firm, business trust or  
360 other aggregation of individuals but does not include the state or any  
361 political subdivision thereof, unless the context clearly states or  
362 requires;

363 (76) "Pick-up truck" means a motor vehicle with an enclosed forward  
364 passenger compartment and an open rearward compartment used for  
365 the transportation of property;

366 (77) "Pneumatic tires" means tires inflated or inflatable with air;

367 (78) "Pole trailer" means a trailer which is (A) intended for  
368 transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, logs, pipes  
369 or structural members, which loads are capable of sustaining  
370 themselves as beams between supporting connections, and (B) designed  
371 to be drawn by a motor vehicle and attached or secured directly to the  
372 motor vehicle by any means including a reach, pole or boom;

373 (79) "Public passenger endorsement" means an endorsement issued  
374 to an individual, which authorizes such individual to transport  
375 passengers, including, but not limited to, passengers who are students  
376 in accordance with subsection (b) or (c) of section 14-36a;

377 (80) "Recreational vehicle" includes the camper, camp trailer and  
378 motor home classes of vehicles;

379 (81) "Registration" includes the certificate of motor vehicle  
380 registration and the number plate or plates used in connection with such  
381 registration;

382 (82) "Registration number" means the identifying number or letters,  
383 or both, assigned by the commissioner to a motor vehicle;

384 (83) "Resident", for the purpose of registering motor vehicles,  
385 includes any person who is a legal resident of this state, as the

386 commissioner may presume from the fact that such person occupies a  
387 place of dwelling in this state for more than six months in a year, or any  
388 person, firm or corporation owning or leasing a motor vehicle used or  
389 operated in intrastate business in this state, or a firm or corporation  
390 having its principal office or place of business in this state;

391 (84) "School bus" means any school bus, as defined in section 14-275,  
392 including a commercial motor vehicle used to transport preschool,  
393 elementary school or secondary school students from home to school,  
394 from school to home, or to and from school-sponsored events, but does  
395 not include a bus used as a common carrier;

396 (85) "Second" violation or "subsequent" violation means an offense  
397 committed not more than three years after the date of an arrest which  
398 resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same statutory  
399 provision, except in the case of a violation of section 14-215, 14-224, 14-  
400 227a or 14-227m, "second" violation or "subsequent" violation means an  
401 offense committed not more than ten years after the date of an arrest  
402 which resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same  
403 statutory provision;

404 (86) "Secondary violation" means a violation of any provision of this  
405 title that may be enforced only in accordance with the provisions of  
406 section 1 of this act;

407 [(86)] (87) "Semitrailer" means any trailer type vehicle designed and  
408 used in conjunction with a motor vehicle so that some part of its own  
409 weight and load rests on or is carried by another vehicle;

410 [(87)] (88) "Serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the  
411 following offenses: (A) Excessive speeding, involving a single offense in  
412 which the speed is fifteen miles per hour or more above the posted  
413 speed limit, in violation of section 14-218a or 14-219; (B) reckless driving  
414 in violation of section 14-222; (C) following too closely in violation of  
415 section 14-240 or 14-240a; (D) improper or erratic lane changes, in  
416 violation of section 14-236; (E) using a hand-held mobile telephone or  
417 other electronic device or typing, reading or sending text or a text

418 message with or from a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device in  
419 violation of subsection (e) of section 14-296aa while operating a  
420 commercial motor vehicle; (F) driving a commercial motor vehicle  
421 without a valid commercial driver's license in violation of section 14-36a  
422 or 14-44a; (G) failure to carry a commercial driver's license in violation  
423 of section 14-44a; (H) failure to have the proper class of license or  
424 endorsement, or violation of a license restriction in violation of section  
425 14-44a; or (I) a violation of any provision of chapter 248, by an operator  
426 who holds a commercial driver's license or instruction permit that  
427 results in the death of another person;

428 [(88)] (89) "Service bus" includes any vehicle except a vanpool vehicle  
429 or a school bus designed and regularly used to carry ten or more  
430 passengers when used in private service for the transportation of  
431 persons without charge to the individual;

432 [(89)] (90) "Service car" means any motor vehicle used by a  
433 manufacturer, dealer or repairer for emergency motor vehicle repairs on  
434 the highways of this state, for towing or for the transportation of  
435 necessary persons, tools and materials to and from the scene of such  
436 emergency repairs or towing;

437 [(90)] (91) "Shoulder" means that portion of a highway immediately  
438 adjacent and contiguous to the travel lanes or main traveled portion of  
439 the roadway;

440 [(91)] (92) "Solid tires" means tires of rubber, or other elastic material  
441 approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, which do not depend  
442 on confined air for the support of the load;

443 [(92)] (93) "Spot lamp" or "spot light" means a lighting device  
444 projecting a high intensity beam, the direction of which can be readily  
445 controlled for special or emergency lighting as distinguished from  
446 ordinary road illumination;

447 [(93)] (94) "State" means any state of the United States and the District  
448 of Columbia unless the context indicates a more specific reference to the

449 state of Connecticut;

450 [(94)] (95) "Stop" means complete cessation of movement;

451 [(95)] (96) "Student" means any person under the age of twenty-one  
452 years who is attending a preprimary, primary or secondary school  
453 program of education;

454 [(96)] (97) "Tail lamp" means a lighting device affixed to the rear of a  
455 motor vehicle showing a red light to the rear and indicating the presence  
456 of the motor vehicle when viewed from behind;

457 [(97)] (98) "Tank vehicle" means any commercial motor vehicle  
458 designed to transport any liquid or gaseous material within a tank that  
459 is either permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle or its  
460 chassis, which includes, but is not limited to, a cargo tank and portable  
461 tank, as defined in 49 CFR 383.5, as amended, provided it does not  
462 include a portable tank with a rated capacity not to exceed one thousand  
463 gallons;

464 [(98)] (99) "Tractor" or "truck tractor" means a motor vehicle designed  
465 and used for drawing a semitrailer;

466 [(99)] (100) "Tractor-trailer unit" means a combination of a tractor and  
467 a trailer or a combination of a tractor and a semitrailer;

468 [(100)] (101) "Trailer" means any rubber-tired vehicle without motive  
469 power drawn or propelled by a motor vehicle;

470 [(101)] (102) "Truck" means a motor vehicle designed, used or  
471 maintained primarily for the transportation of property;

472 [(102)] (103) "Ultimate consumer" means, with respect to a motor  
473 vehicle, the first person, other than a dealer, who in good faith purchases  
474 the motor vehicle for purposes other than resale;

475 [(103)] (104) "United States" means the fifty states and the District of  
476 Columbia;



477 [(104)] (105) "Used motor vehicle" includes any motor vehicle which  
478 has been previously separately registered by an ultimate consumer;

479 [(105)] (106) "Utility trailer" means a trailer designed and used to  
480 transport personal property, materials or equipment, whether or not  
481 permanently affixed to the bed of the trailer;

482 [(106)] (107) "Vanpool vehicle" includes all motor vehicles, the  
483 primary purpose of which is the daily transportation, on a prearranged  
484 nonprofit basis, of individuals between home and work, and which: (A)  
485 If owned by or leased to a person, or to an employee of the person, or to  
486 an employee of a local, state or federal government unit or agency  
487 located in Connecticut, are manufactured and equipped in such manner  
488 as to provide a seating capacity of at least seven but not more than  
489 fifteen individuals, or (B) if owned by or leased to a regional ride-  
490 sharing organization in the state recognized by the Commissioner of  
491 Transportation, are manufactured and equipped in such manner as to  
492 provide a seating capacity of at least six but not more than nineteen  
493 individuals;

494 [(107)] (108) "Vehicle" includes any device suitable for the  
495 conveyance, drawing or other transportation of persons or property,  
496 whether operated on wheels, runners, a cushion of air or by any other  
497 means. The term does not include devices propelled or drawn by human  
498 power or devices used exclusively on tracks;

499 [(108)] (109) "Vehicle identification number" or "VIN" means a series  
500 of Arabic numbers and Roman letters that is assigned to each new motor  
501 vehicle that is manufactured within or imported into the United States,  
502 in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 565, unless another  
503 sequence of numbers and letters has been assigned to a motor vehicle  
504 by the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-  
505 149;

506 [(109)] (110) "Wrecker" means a vehicle which is registered, designed,  
507 equipped and used for the purposes of towing or transporting wrecked  
508 or disabled motor vehicles for compensation or for related purposes by

509 a person, firm or corporation licensed in accordance with the provisions  
510 of subpart (D) of part III of this chapter or a vehicle contracted for the  
511 consensual towing or transporting of one or more motor vehicles to or  
512 from a place of sale, purchase, salvage or repair.

513 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of section 14-212 of the general statutes is  
514 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
515 *1, 2024*):

516 (1) The following terms shall be construed as they are defined in  
517 section 14-1, as amended by this act: "Agricultural tractor", "authorized  
518 emergency vehicle", "class 1 electric bicycle", "class 2 electric bicycle",  
519 "class 3 electric bicycle", "commissioner", "driver", "electric bicycle",  
520 "electric foot scooter", "fuels", "gross weight", "head lamp", "high-  
521 mileage vehicle", "highway", "light weight", "limited access highway",  
522 "maintenance vehicle", "motor bus", "motorcycle", "motor vehicle  
523 registration", "nonresident", "nonskid device", "number plate", "officer",  
524 "operator", "owner", "passenger motor vehicle", "passenger and  
525 commercial motor vehicle", "person", "pneumatic tires", "pole trailer",  
526 "registration", "registration number", "second offense", "secondary  
527 violation", "semitrailer", "shoulder", "solid tires", "stop", "subsequent  
528 offense", "tail lamp", "tank vehicle", "tractor", "tractor-trailer unit",  
529 "trailer", "truck" and "vanpool vehicle";

530 Sec. 4. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 14-99g of the general statutes  
531 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
532 *October 1, 2024*):

533 (f) Any person who violates any provision of subsections (b) to (e),  
534 inclusive, of this section shall be deemed to have committed an  
535 infraction for each offense. Any person who violates any provision of  
536 subsection (b) of this section shall remove such object or material which  
537 obstructs [his] such person's clear and full view of the road and report  
538 within sixty days to the police department which issued the infractions  
539 complaint to present [his] such person's vehicle for inspection and to  
540 demonstrate compliance with the provisions of this section. If such  
541 person fails to report to such police department and is cited for a

542 subsequent violation of this section, [his] such person's vehicle shall be  
543 impounded after notice and opportunity for hearing. A violation of any  
544 provision of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section is a  
545 secondary violation.

546 (g) Any person owning a vehicle having a window which has been  
547 tinted or darkened with any tinted material after factory delivery, shall  
548 present such vehicle to the Department of Motor Vehicles, by July 1,  
549 1996, to receive a sticker for any tinted or darkened window to indicate  
550 such tinting or darkening is in compliance with this section. Any person  
551 operating a motor vehicle, on or after July 1, 1996, in violation of this  
552 subsection shall be deemed to have committed an infraction. A violation  
553 of any provision of this subsection is a secondary violation.

554 Sec. 5. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 14-18 of the general  
555 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
556 (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

557 (a) (1) Each motor vehicle for which one number plate has been issued  
558 shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway, display in a  
559 conspicuous place at the rear of such vehicle the number plate. The  
560 commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the expiration date of the  
561 registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in such place on the vehicle  
562 as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker may contain the  
563 corresponding letters and numbers of the registration and number plate  
564 issued by the commissioner.

565 (2) Each motor vehicle for which two number plates have been issued  
566 shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway, display in a  
567 conspicuous place at the front and the rear of such vehicle the number  
568 plates. Displaying a number plate against a vehicle's rear window is a  
569 secondary violation, provided the numerals and letters on any such  
570 number plate are plainly legible. The commissioner may issue a sticker  
571 denoting the expiration date of the registration. Such sticker shall be  
572 displayed in such place on the vehicle as the commissioner may direct.  
573 Such sticker may contain the corresponding letters and numbers of the  
574 number plate issued by the commissioner.

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

576 (c) Official number plates when displayed upon motor vehicles shall  
577 be [entirely] substantially unobscured and the numerals and letters  
578 thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. Such number plates shall be  
579 horizontal [,] and shall be fastened so as not to swing. [and, during the  
580 time when a motor vehicle is required to display lights, the rear number  
581 plate shall be so illuminated as to be legible at a distance of fifty feet.]  
582 Nothing may be affixed to a motor vehicle or to the official number  
583 plates displayed on such vehicle that obscures or impairs the visibility  
584 of [any information] the numerals and letters on such number plates.  
585 Not more than one number plate shall be displayed on the front or rear  
586 of any motor vehicle in operation upon the public highways of the state;  
587 provided any motor vehicle may, upon permission of the commissioner,  
588 display more than one number plate in front or rear, subject to such  
589 conditions as the commissioner prescribes. If any number plate supplied  
590 by the commissioner is lost, or if the registered number thereon becomes  
591 mutilated or illegible, the owner of or the person in control of the motor  
592 vehicle for which such number plate was furnished shall immediately  
593 place a temporary number plate bearing said registration number upon  
594 such motor vehicle, which temporary number plate shall conform to the  
595 regular number plate and shall be displayed as nearly as possible as  
596 [herein] provided in this section for such regular number plate; and such  
597 owner shall, within forty-eight hours after such loss or mutilation of the  
598 number plate, give notice thereof to the commissioner and apply for a  
599 new number plate. The commissioner may issue a permit to operate  
600 with such temporary plate and shall supply new number plates upon  
601 payment of the fee therefor as provided in section 14-50a. Upon receipt  
602 of such new number plates and new certificate, the remaining old  
603 number plate, if any, and certificate shall be surrendered to the  
604 commissioner.

605 Sec. 6. Section 14-96a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
606 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

607 (a) Every vehicle upon a highway within this state shall display such

608 lighted lamps and illuminating devices as may be required under the  
609 provisions of this section and sections [14-96a] 14-96b to 14-96aa,  
610 inclusive, (1) at any time from a half-hour after sunset to a half-hour  
611 before sunrise, (2) at any time when, due to insufficient light or  
612 unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the  
613 highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of five hundred feet  
614 ahead, and (3) at any time during periods of precipitation, including,  
615 but not limited to, periods of snow, rain or fog.

616 (b) Whenever in said sections any requirement is declared as to  
617 distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects  
618 visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible, such  
619 requirement shall apply during the times stated in subsection (a) of this  
620 section in respect to a vehicle without load when upon a straight, level,  
621 unlighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a  
622 different time or condition is expressly stated.

623 (c) Whenever in said sections any requirement is declared as to the  
624 mounted height of lamps or devices, such requirement shall mean the  
625 height measured from the center of such lamps or devices to the level  
626 ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a  
627 load.

628 (d) Failure to [provide lighted] illuminate lamps and illuminating  
629 devices at such time as required by this section shall be an infraction.

630 (e) To the extent that a violation concerning the number, placement  
631 or intensity of lamps or illuminating devices, or any other technical  
632 specifications concerning lamps or illuminating devices, provided for in  
633 sections 14-96b to 14-96aa, inclusive, would also constitute a violation  
634 under this section, such violation shall be enforced under sections 14-  
635 96b to 14-96aa, inclusive, as applicable, and not under this section.

636 Sec. 7. Section 14-96c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
637 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

638 (a) After October 1, 1967, every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and

639 pole trailer, and any other vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a  
640 combination of vehicles, shall be equipped with at least two tail lamps  
641 mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as required in subsection (a)  
642 of section 14-96a, as amended by this act, shall emit a red light plainly  
643 visible from a distance of one thousand feet to the rear, except that  
644 passenger cars manufactured or assembled prior to October 1, 1957, and  
645 motorcycles shall have at least one such tail lamp. On a combination of  
646 vehicles, only the tail lamps on the rearmost vehicle need actually be  
647 seen from the distance specified. On vehicles equipped with more than  
648 one tail lamp, the lamps shall be mounted on the same level and as  
649 widely spaced laterally as practicable.

650 (b) Every tail lamp upon every vehicle shall be located at a mounted  
651 height of not more than seventy-two inches nor less than fifteen inches.

652 (c) The rear registration plate shall be so illumined with a white light  
653 as to render it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any  
654 tail lamp or tail lamps, together with any separate lamp or lamps for  
655 illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted  
656 whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted, except  
657 that any vehicle equipped by the manufacturer with daytime running  
658 lamps which meet federal requirements may have such daytime  
659 running lamps illumined without illumination of the tail lamps or rear  
660 registration plate.

661 (d) Failure to have tail lamps or failure to illuminate the rear  
662 registration plate as required in this section shall be an infraction.  
663 Failure to illuminate the rear registration plate shall be a secondary  
664 violation.

665 Sec. 8. Section 14-96d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
666 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

667 (a) Each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and pole trailer shall carry  
668 on the rear, either as a part of the tail lamps or separately, two or more  
669 red reflectors meeting the requirements of this section. Each motorcycle  
670 shall carry at least one such reflector.

671 (b) Each such reflector shall be mounted on the vehicle at a height of  
672 not less than fifteen inches nor more than sixty inches, and shall be of  
673 such size and characteristics and so mounted as to be visible at night  
674 from all distances within three hundred fifty feet to one hundred feet  
675 from such vehicle when directly in front of upper beams of head lamps.

676 (c) Failure to carry and mount reflectors as required in this section  
677 shall be an infraction. Failure to carry and mount two reflectors shall be  
678 a secondary violation if a vehicle has one reflector.

679 Sec. 9. Section 14-96y of the general statutes is repealed and the  
680 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

681 (a) [At all times specified in subsection (a) of section 14-96a, at least  
682 two lighted lamps shall be displayed, one on each side at the front of  
683 every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle] Each motor vehicle, other  
684 than a motorcycle, shall have at least two functioning head lamps, one  
685 of which shall be located on each side at the front of such vehicle, except  
686 when such vehicle is parked subject to the regulations governing lights  
687 on parked vehicles.

688 (b) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with head lamps as [herein]  
689 required by this section is also equipped with any auxiliary lamps or a  
690 spot lamp or any other lamp on the front thereof projecting a beam of  
691 intensity greater than three hundred candlepower, not more than a total  
692 of four of any such lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any  
693 one time when upon a highway.

694 (c) Failure to have two functioning head lamps as required by this  
695 section shall be an infraction. Failure to have two functioning head  
696 lamps shall be a secondary violation if the vehicle has one lighted head  
697 lamp and is otherwise in compliance with the provisions of subsection  
698 (a) of this section.

699 Sec. 10. Section 14-99f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
700 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

701 (a) Each motor vehicle shall be equipped with a windshield of a type

702 prescribed by section 14-100 and a windshield cleaner or wiper in  
703 effective working order located directly in front of the operator while in  
704 use on the highway. The windshield shall be reasonably free of defects  
705 and accumulations, inside and out, of snow, ice, condensation and dirt.  
706 The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a motorcycle or a  
707 vehicle designed by the manufacturer for nonhighway operation  
708 without a windshield.

709 (b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle required to be equipped  
710 with such a windshield if the windshield is in a condition to interfere  
711 with an unobstructed view of the highway.

712 (c) No article, device, sticker or ornament shall be attached or affixed  
713 to or hung on or in any motor vehicle in such a manner or location as to  
714 interfere with the operator's unobstructed view of the highway or to  
715 distract the attention of the operator.

716 (d) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction. A  
717 violation of subsection (c) of this section shall be a secondary violation  
718 if the obstruction of the windshield is not substantial.

719 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 14-12 of the general statutes is  
720 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
721 *1, 2024*):

722 (a) No motor vehicle shall be operated, towed or parked on any  
723 highway, except as otherwise expressly provided, unless it is registered  
724 with the commissioner, provided any motor vehicle may be towed for  
725 repairs or necessary work if it bears the number plates of a licensed and  
726 registered dealer, manufacturer or repairer and provided any motor  
727 vehicle which is validly registered in another state may, for a period of  
728 ninety days following establishment by the owner of residence in this  
729 state, be operated on any highway without first being registered with  
730 the commissioner. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, (1) a  
731 person commits an infraction if such person (A) registers a motor  
732 vehicle [he or she] such person does not own, or (B) operates, allows the  
733 operation of, parks or allows the parking of an unregistered motor



734 vehicle on any highway, or (2) a resident of this state who operates or  
735 parks a motor vehicle such resident owns with number plates issued by  
736 another state on any highway shall be fined two hundred fifty dollars,  
737 except that the fine shall be suspended for a first time violator who  
738 presents proof of registration for the motor vehicle subsequent to the  
739 violation but prior to the imposition of a fine. If the owner of a motor  
740 vehicle previously registered with the commissioner, the registration of  
741 which expired not more than [thirty] sixty days previously, operates,  
742 allows the operation of, parks or allows that parking of such a motor  
743 vehicle, such owner shall be fined the amount designated for the  
744 infraction of failure to renew a registration, but the right to retain his or  
745 her operator's license shall not be affected. Such violation shall be a  
746 secondary violation. No operator other than the owner shall be subject  
747 to penalty for the operation or parking of such a previously registered  
748 motor vehicle. As used in this subsection, the term "unregistered motor  
749 vehicle" includes any vehicle that is not eligible for registration by the  
750 commissioner due to the absence of necessary equipment or other  
751 characteristics of the vehicle that make it unsuitable for highway  
752 operation, unless the operation of such vehicle is expressly permitted by  
753 another provision of this chapter or chapter 248.

754 Sec. 12. Subsection (d) of section 14-41 of the 2024 supplement to the  
755 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
756 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

757 (d) The commissioner may, at least fifteen days before the date on  
758 which each motor vehicle operator's license or identity card expires,  
759 notify the holder of such license or identity card of the expiration date,  
760 in a manner determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall  
761 not provide such notification by mail to any such licensee or identity  
762 card holder if the United States Postal Service has determined that mail  
763 is undeliverable to the address for such person that is documented in  
764 the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Any previously  
765 licensed operator who operates a motor vehicle within sixty days after  
766 the expiration date of the operator's license without obtaining a renewal  
767 of the license shall be fined in accordance with the amount designated

768 for the infraction of failure to renew a motor vehicle operator's license.  
769 A violation of this subsection shall be a secondary violation. Any  
770 operator so charged shall not be prosecuted under section 14-36 for the  
771 same act constituting a violation under this section but section 14-36  
772 shall apply after the sixty-day period.

773 Sec. 13. Section 14-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
774 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

775 (a) A person holding (1) a license for the operation of a motor vehicle,  
776 issued by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in accordance with  
777 section 14-36, or (2) an identity card, issued by said commissioner in  
778 accordance with section 1-1h, shall notify the commissioner within  
779 forty-eight hours of any change of such person's address. The  
780 notification shall include such person's old address and new address.

781 (b) In IV-D support cases, as defined in subdivision (13) of subsection  
782 (b) of section 46b-231, upon written notification by the Department of  
783 Social Services that the address listed for the holder of a motor vehicle  
784 operator's license or the holder of an identity card is incorrect, the  
785 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall notify the operator that the  
786 correct address must be furnished to the department. The commissioner  
787 shall refuse to issue or renew a motor vehicle operator's license if the  
788 address furnished by the applicant is determined to be incorrect. The  
789 department shall notify the Department of Social Services of the current  
790 address of holders of motor vehicle operator's licenses when a change  
791 of address is reported.

792 (c) Failure of the holder of a motor vehicle operator's license or  
793 identity card to give the notice required by this section shall be an  
794 infraction and a secondary violation.

795 Sec. 14. Section 14-213 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
796 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

797 Each [operator of] person who operates a motor vehicle shall carry  
798 [his] such person's operator's license while operating such vehicle.

799 Failure to carry such operator's license as required by the provisions of  
800 this section shall be an infraction and a secondary violation.

801 Sec. 15. Section 14-215b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
802 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

803 Any person whose motor vehicle operator's license has been  
804 suspended who operates a motor vehicle after the expiration of such  
805 period of suspension without obtaining the reinstatement of such  
806 license shall (1) during the first sixty days after such expiration, be  
807 deemed to have failed to renew such license and be subject to the  
808 penalty for failure to renew a motor vehicle operator's license under  
809 subsection (c) of section 14-41, and such violation shall be a secondary  
810 violation, and (2) after said sixty-day period, be subject to the penalty  
811 for operating a motor vehicle without a license under section 14-36. Any  
812 operator so charged shall not be prosecuted under section 14-215 for the  
813 same act constituting a violation under this section.

814 Sec. 16. Section 14-21b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
815 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

816 (a) The commissioner shall issue fully reflectorized safety number  
817 plates for new registrations and renewal registrations issued on and  
818 after January 1, 2000, for passenger, combination and commercial  
819 registrations and other registrations as the commissioner deems feasible  
820 within funds and personnel available. Each plate shall bear the words  
821 "Constitution State" and "Connecticut". The commissioner shall issue  
822 two fully reflectorized safety number plates in accordance with a  
823 schedule established by the commissioner in such quantities as the  
824 commissioner deems feasible within the funds and personnel available.  
825 No safety fee shall be charged for the issuance of the replacement  
826 number plates for such renewals.

827 (b) No additional charge shall be made for the issuance of such new  
828 or replacement fully reflectorized plates, except for the safety fee  
829 provided for in subsection (w) of section 14-49.

830 (c) The owner or lessee of each registered motor vehicle who is issued  
831 two fully reflectorized safety number plates by the commissioner shall  
832 display such plates on such motor vehicle as provided in section 14-18,  
833 as amended by this act. A violation of this subsection shall be an  
834 infraction and a secondary violation.

835 Sec. 17. Subsection (e) of section 14-80 of the general statutes is  
836 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
837 *1, 2024*):

838 (e) Every motor vehicle shall, when operated on a highway, be  
839 equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting  
840 sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than  
841 two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an  
842 unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. A violation of this  
843 subsection shall be a secondary violation.

844 Sec. 18. Section 14-99 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
845 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

846 (a) Each motor vehicle shall be equipped with a mirror attached to  
847 and so located and adjusted on such vehicle as to give the operator  
848 thereof a clear reflected view of the highway directly to the rear of or on  
849 a line parallel to the left side of the body of such motor vehicle. A  
850 violation of this subsection shall be a secondary violation.

851 (b) Any person operating a motor vehicle with a commercial  
852 registration so constructed or which may be so loaded that the operator  
853 is prevented from having a free and unobstructed view of the highway  
854 immediately to the rear and at the left side of the same shall, by means  
855 of such mirror, make frequent observations of the approach of vehicles  
856 from the rear. When operating at below the posted speed limits and  
857 when so approached or overtaken, the operator of such motor vehicle  
858 shall drive to the extreme right of the traveled way as promptly as safety  
859 will permit, giving the vehicle approaching from the rear opportunity  
860 to pass.

861 (c) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

862 Sec. 19. Section 14-285 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
863 following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2024):

864 Each vehicle, except a motor vehicle, which is so constructed or which  
865 is so loaded that the driver is prevented from having a free and  
866 unobstructed view of the highway immediately to the rear and at the  
867 sides of the same, shall be equipped with a mirror or reflector attached  
868 to and so located and adjusted on such vehicle as to give the operator  
869 thereof a clear reflected view of the highway directly to the rear on a line  
870 parallel to the side of the body of such vehicle. Any person operating  
871 such a vehicle shall make observations for the approach of vehicles from  
872 the rear and, when so approached, shall drive to the right of the center  
873 line of the traveled way as promptly as safety will permit, giving the  
874 vehicle approaching from the rear opportunity to pass in safety. Any  
875 person who violates any provision of this section shall be deemed to  
876 have committed an infraction and be fined fifty dollars for each offense.  
877 Such violation shall be a secondary violation.

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	14-1
Sec. 3	October 1, 2024	14-212(1)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2024	14-99g(f) and (g)
Sec. 5	October 1, 2024	14-18(a) to (c)
Sec. 6	October 1, 2024	14-96a
Sec. 7	October 1, 2024	14-96c
Sec. 8	October 1, 2024	14-96d
Sec. 9	October 1, 2024	14-96y
Sec. 10	October 1, 2024	14-99f
Sec. 11	October 1, 2024	14-12(a)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2024	14-41(d)
Sec. 13	October 1, 2024	14-45
Sec. 14	October 1, 2024	14-213
Sec. 15	October 1, 2024	14-215b
Sec. 16	October 1, 2024	14-21b

Sec. 17	October 1, 2024	14-80(e)
Sec. 18	October 1, 2024	14-99
Sec. 19	October 1, 2024	14-285

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1, "only" was moved for clarity.

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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 \$
State Resources	Various - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: Various=Various

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill designates certain motor vehicle infractions as "secondary violations" and prohibits law enforcement officers from stopping a motor vehicle only to enforce one of these infractions, resulting in a potential revenue loss to the state and various municipalities beginning in FY 25, to the extent that there are less infractions resulting from vehicles stopped solely for such infractions.<sup>1</sup>

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the actual number of infractions.

<sup>1</sup>In FY 23, approximately \$2 million was collected in fines related to infractions that would now be considered secondary violations.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5324*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING SECONDARY TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill designates certain equipment-related and administrative motor vehicle violations as secondary violations, prohibiting law enforcement officers from stopping a motor vehicle only to enforce one of these violations. The violations deemed secondary are generally designated as infractions (see BACKGROUND) and include, among others, (1) window tint violations, (2) failure to have two working headlights, (3) failure to illuminate the rear license plate, (4) failure to renew a registration or driver's license, and (5) failure to carry a driver's license when driving.

The bill specifies that it does not prohibit enforcement of secondary violations (1) in the case of a vehicle stopped for a violation that is not a secondary violation (i.e., a primary violation), (2) by automated enforcement, and (3) by mailing a violation notice.

Existing law already makes some violations secondary violations (although it does not use that term), including (1) the failure of a backseat passenger age 16 or older to wear a seat belt (CGS § 14-100a(c)(4)) and (2) smoking, inhaling, or ingesting cannabis while driving or as a passenger (CGS §§ 53a-213a & -213b).

The bill also modifies the violation for obscuring license plates, which is a primary violation. Current law requires that license plates be entirely unobscured and prohibits placing anything on a vehicle or license plates that obscures any information on the plate. The bill instead requires that plates be substantially unobscured and prohibits placing anything that obscures the plate's numbers and letters.



Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

## **§§ 4-9, 10 & 17-19 — EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS**

### ***Tinted Window Violations (§ 4)***

Existing law generally prohibits (1) driving a vehicle with objects or materials placed, installed, or applied on the vehicle in a way that obstructs the driver's clear and full view of the road out of the windshield and side and rear windows and (2) putting transparent material on these windows if it alters the color or reduces the light transmittance. But it makes many exceptions to these prohibitions, including allowing tinting of side windows that complies with the law's standards on light transmission and luminous reflectance. It also prohibits anyone from selling, offering, or delivering in the state a vehicle with windows that do not comply with these standards.

By law, any motor vehicle with a window that was tinted after factory delivery must have a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)-issued sticker indicating that the material used complies with the law's standards. Manufacturers must apply to DMV for approval before shipping material to the state and deliver the approved stickers with the material. The sticker's presence on a motor vehicle indicates that the window complies with the law, and vehicles with tinted windows operating without a compliance sticker are in violation of the law.

Violations of these provisions are infractions under existing law. The bill additionally makes them secondary violations.

### ***Display of License Plates (§§ 5 & 16)***

By law, vehicles issued two license plates must display them in a visible place on the vehicle's front and rear. The bill makes displaying a license plate against a vehicle's rear window a secondary violation, as long as the numbers and letters are plainly legible.

### ***Lights and Reflectors (§§ 6-9)***

The bill makes the following light- and reflector- related infractions

secondary violations:

1. failure to illuminate the rear license plate with a white light that makes it clearly legible from 50 feet away,
2. having only one red reflector on the vehicle's rear when two are required (but having no reflectors remains a primary violation), and
3. having only one working headlight otherwise in compliance with the law when two are required (but having no working headlights remains a primary violation).

The bill also requires violations of laws on the number, placement, and intensity of lights or other technical specifications included in the motor vehicle equipment laws that would also constitute a violation of the statute on use of lights while driving (CGS § 14-96a) to be enforced under the equipment statutes and not under CGS § 14-96a.

#### ***Obstructed Windshield (§ 10)***

Existing law prohibits attaching, placing, or hanging a device, sticker, or ornament on or in a vehicle in a way or location so that it obstructs the driver's view of the road or distracts the driver. The bill makes violations of this prohibition a secondary violation, as long as the obstruction is not substantial.

#### ***Horn (§ 17)***

Under existing law, when operating on a public road, every motor vehicle must have a horn in good working order that can make a sound that can be heard under normal conditions from at least 200 feet away. The law prohibits the horn or other warning devices from making an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The bill makes violations of these provisions secondary violations.

#### ***Mirrors (§§ 18 & 19)***

Existing law requires motor vehicles and other vehicles (e.g., bicycles and motor scooters) to have a mirror attached, located, and adjusted in

a way that gives the operator a clear view of the highway directly to the vehicle's rear or on a line parallel to the vehicle's body. It also requires operators of vehicles that are not motor vehicles to watch for vehicles approaching to their rear and drive to the right as promptly as safety permits, in order to allow the oncoming vehicle to pass safely.

The bill makes these infractions secondary violations.

## **§§ 11-15 — ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS**

### ***Failure to Renew Registration (§ 11)***

Existing law generally requires a person to register a vehicle with DMV before it may be driven, towed, or parked on any public road. Violations are generally infractions, but the commissioner is authorized to suspend a person's driver's license for failing to renew a registration (CGS § 14-12g(c)).

Current law has a grace period of 30 days after a previously registered vehicle's registration expires during which a violation is considered "failure to renew" and subject only to an infraction penalty and not license suspension. The bill extends this grace period from 30 to 60 days after the expiration date and makes failure to renew a secondary violation.

### ***Failure to Renew Driver's License (§§ 12 & 15)***

Existing law similarly has a grace period of 60 days after a driver's license expires during which previously licensed drivers are fined for failure to renew a driver's license rather than driving without a license (CGS § 14-36). It also makes driving without getting reinstated within the first 60 days after a person's license suspension expires subject to the penalty for failure to renew.

The bill makes these violations secondary violations.

### ***Failure to Change Address (§ 13)***

The law requires driver's license and identity card holders to update DMV within 48 hours of any change of address. The bill makes failing to do so a secondary violation.

**Failure to Carry Driver’s License (§ 14)**

By law, a person must carry his or her driver’s license when driving. Driving without it is an infraction. The bill also makes it a secondary violation.

**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 fine’s amount. There may also be other applicable charges depending on 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 generally pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 24 Nay 13 (03/26/2024)