



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 310

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 183

Senate, April 8, 2024

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) (1) Except as provided
2 in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no person, firm or corporation shall
3 engage in the business of electronically filing applications for the
4 issuance of a certificate of registration or a certificate of title for motor
5 vehicles with the Department of Motor Vehicles, unless such person,
6 firm or corporation holds an electronic issuance license issued by the
7 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

8 (2) A motor vehicle dealer licensed in accordance with section 14-52
9 of the general statutes and acting pursuant to subsection (c) of section
10 14-12, subsection (b) of section 14-61 or section 14-61a of the general
11 statutes, a person, firm or corporation engaging in the business of
12 leasing or renting motor vehicles licensed and acting pursuant to section
13 14-15 of the general statutes or a contractor authorized pursuant to
14 subsection (b) of section 14-41 of the general statutes, may use the

15 department's electronic system for filing applications for the issuance of
16 a certificate of registration or certificate of title, as the case may be,
17 without obtaining an electronic issuance license.

18 (3) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall require any person,
19 firm or corporation that files, on average, five or more applications for
20 the issuance of a certificate of registration or a certificate of title for
21 motor vehicles each month with the Department of Motor Vehicles to
22 file such applications electronically and obtain an electronic issuance
23 license. Any such person, firm or corporation that fails or refuses to file
24 such application electronically upon the request of the commissioner
25 shall pay a fee of twenty-five dollars to the commissioner for each
26 application submitted.

27 (b) Each applicant for an electronic issuance license shall submit an
28 application containing such information as the commissioner may
29 require and pay a license fee in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars.
30 Each license may be renewed biennially according to renewal schedules
31 established by the commissioner to effect staggered renewal of such
32 licenses. If the adoption of a staggered system results in the expiration
33 of any license more or less than two years from its issuance, the
34 commissioner may charge a prorated amount for such license fee. Not
35 less than forty-five days prior to the date of expiration of each such
36 license, the commissioner shall send or transmit to each licensee, in a
37 manner determined by the commissioner, an application for renewal.
38 Any licensee that has not filed the application for renewal accompanied
39 by the license fee of two hundred fifty dollars prior to the expiration
40 date of such license shall no longer be permitted to use the department's
41 electronic system for filing applications for the issuance of a certificate
42 of registration or a certificate of title pursuant to section 14-15d of the
43 general statutes, as amended by this act. An application for renewal filed
44 with the commissioner after the date of expiration shall be accompanied
45 by a late fee of one hundred dollars. The commissioner shall not renew
46 any license under this section that has been expired for more than forty-
47 five days.

48 (c) Each applicant for, or holder of, an electronic issuance license shall
49 furnish surety bonds in the following amounts: (1) Twenty thousand
50 dollars conditioned upon the applicant or holder complying with the
51 provisions of any state or federal law or regulation relating to the
52 conduct of filing applications for the issuance of a certificate of
53 registration or a certificate of title and provided as indemnity for any
54 loss sustained by any customer of such licensee by reason of the
55 licensee's failure to comply with such laws or regulations; (2) twenty
56 thousand dollars provided as security for any monetary loss suffered by
57 the department as a result of the loss, destruction or misuse of any
58 number plates assigned to such licensee by the department pursuant to
59 subsection (f) of this section; and (3) five thousand dollars provided as
60 security for any monetary loss suffered by the department due to such
61 licensee's failure to remit registration and title fees received pursuant to
62 section 14-15d of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The surety
63 bond furnished pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section shall be
64 executed in the name of the state of Connecticut for the benefit of any
65 aggrieved customer, but the penalty of the bond shall not be invoked
66 except upon order of the commissioner after a hearing before the
67 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
68 general statutes. The commissioner shall assess an administrative fee of
69 two hundred dollars against any electronic issuance licensee for failing
70 to provide proof of bond renewal or replacement on or before the date
71 of the expiration of the existing bond.

72 (d) The commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a
73 hearing pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
74 refuse to grant or renew a license to a person, firm or corporation to
75 engage in the business of electronically filing applications for the
76 issuance of a certificate of registration or a certificate of title for motor
77 vehicles with the department (1) if the applicant for, or holder of, such
78 a license, or an officer or major stockholder, if the applicant or licensee
79 is a firm or corporation, has been found liable in a civil action for, or has
80 been convicted of, a violation of any provision of law (A) pertaining to
81 the business of electronic filing applications for the issuance of a
82 certificate of registration or a certificate of title or (B) involving fraud,

83 larceny, stalking, embezzlement, bribery or deprivation or
84 misappropriation of property, in the courts of the United States or any
85 state, or (2) for any reason the commissioner reasonably deems
86 necessary. Upon renewal of such license, a licensee shall make full
87 disclosure of any such civil judgment or conviction under penalty of
88 false statement. Each applicant for the issuance or renewal of such
89 license, or if the applicant is a firm or corporation, each officer or major
90 stockholder of such firm or corporation, shall be fingerprinted and shall
91 submit to state and national criminal history records checks, conducted
92 in accordance with section 29-17a of the general statutes.

93 (e) The commissioner shall not, after notice and an opportunity for a
94 hearing pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
95 grant or renew a license to an applicant for, or holder of, an electronic
96 issuance license that is delinquent in the payment of sales tax in
97 connection with a business from which it is or was obligated to remit
98 sales tax, as reported to the commissioner by the Department of
99 Revenue Services.

100 (f) (1) The department shall provide each electronic issuance licensee
101 with an inventory of number plates and other materials to be used solely
102 for the registration of transactions performed pursuant to the provisions
103 of section 14-15d of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such
104 licensee shall be responsible for all number plates assigned to such
105 licensee by the department.

106 (2) If a person, firm or corporation holds an electronic issuance license
107 that is no longer valid, or if an electronic issuance licensee is no longer
108 conducting its business, such person, firm or corporation or licensee
109 shall return to the commissioner, within five business days of such
110 license becoming invalid or the termination of such business, (A) any
111 number plates or other materials supplied by the commissioner to
112 enable such person, firm or corporation or licensee to perform the
113 registration of transactions pursuant to section 14-15d of the general
114 statutes, as amended by this act, and (B) any applications for such
115 transactions that were not acted upon or completed by such person, firm

116 or corporation or licensee when it was conducting its business. A
117 violation of any provision of this subdivision shall be an infraction.

118 (g) No electronic issuance licensee shall (1) include the words
119 "Department of Motor Vehicles" or "DMV" or other indication of the
120 department in the name of the licensee's business, or (2) act in any
121 manner that misleads consumers to believe that such licensee represents
122 or is otherwise affiliated with the department.

123 (h) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this
124 section, the commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a
125 hearing pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
126 impose a civil penalty of not more than two thousand dollars on any
127 person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of this section.

128 Sec. 2. Section 14-15d of the general statutes is repealed and the
129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

130 [The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may require any person, firm
131 or corporation, who in the opinion of the commissioner is qualified and
132 who is engaged in the business of filing applications for the issuance of
133 a certificate of registration or a certificate of title for motor vehicles with
134 the Department of Motor Vehicles, to file such applications
135 electronically if the commissioner determines that such person, firm or
136 corporation files, on average, seven or more such applications each
137 month. A qualified person, firm or corporation]

138 (a) Each electronic issuance licensee, licensed pursuant to section 1 of
139 this act, shall, not later than ten days after the electronic issuance of
140 [such] a certificate of registration or certificate of title, submit to the
141 [commissioner] Commissioner of Motor Vehicles an application
142 together with all necessary documents required to [register] obtain a
143 certificate of registration or certificate or title for the vehicle with the
144 [department. Any such person, firm or corporation that fails or refuses
145 to file such application electronically upon the request of the
146 commissioner shall pay a twenty-five-dollar fee to the commissioner for
147 each application submitted.] Department of Motor Vehicles. If such

148 licensee fails to provide the department with such necessary documents,
149 the department shall not process the application and shall inform such
150 licensee of the failure to submit a completed application.

151 (b) Any electronic issuance licensee who files such applications
152 electronically shall provide a form, as prescribed by the commissioner,
153 to the owner or lessee of the motor vehicle that is the subject of such
154 application. Such form shall include (1) the amount of any fee charged
155 by such licensee to file such application electronically, (2) a statement
156 that such licensee is not affiliated with the department, (3) information
157 regarding how such owner or lessee may file a complaint with the
158 department concerning a transaction performed pursuant to this
159 section, and (4) any other information prescribed by the commissioner.
160 Such licensee shall require such owner or lessee to acknowledge the
161 information contained in such form by obtaining such owner or lessee's
162 signature on such form.

163 (c) No electronic issuance licensee who files an application
164 electronically pursuant to this section shall charge the owner or lessee
165 of the motor vehicle that is the subject of any such application a fee in
166 excess of twenty-five dollars to file such application electronically with
167 the department.

168 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
169 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

170 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On and after January 1, 2025,
171 each person, firm or corporation that the Commissioner of Motor
172 Vehicles required prior to October 1, 2024, to file applications for the
173 issuance of a certificate of registration or a certificate of title
174 electronically with the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to
175 section 14-15d of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
176 January 1, 2024, shall no longer be permitted to use the department's
177 electronic system for filing applications for the issuance of a certificate
178 of registration or a certificate of title unless such person, firm or
179 corporation holds an electronic issuance license issued pursuant to
180 section 1 of this act.

181 Sec. 4. Section 14-35 of the general statutes is repealed and the
182 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

183 (a) Any person who in the opinion of the commissioner is qualified,
184 may apply for a transporter's registration and number plate. The
185 applicant shall furnish such information as the commissioner requires
186 on forms to be furnished by the commissioner. All transporter
187 registrations issued pursuant to this section shall expire annually on the
188 last day of March. An application for the renewal of a transporter's
189 registration filed with the commissioner after the expiration date of such
190 registration shall be accompanied by a late fee of one hundred dollars
191 per number plate. The commissioner shall not renew any transporter's
192 registration under this section that has been expired for more than forty-
193 five days. Not later than January 1, 1989, the commissioner shall adopt
194 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, specifically
195 identifying (1) the types of vehicles which may be registered under a
196 transporter's number plate, and (2) limitations on the use of such plate,
197 including the purposes for which such plate may be used.

198 (b) The [applicant shall] commissioner may issue to the applicant a
199 general distinguishing number, instead of [registering] requiring the
200 applicant to register each motor vehicle owned by such applicant or
201 temporarily in the applicant's custody. [, have issued to such applicant
202 by the commissioner a general distinguishing number.] Thereupon,
203 each motor vehicle owned by the applicant or temporarily in the
204 applicant's custody shall be regarded as registered under, and having
205 assigned to it, the distinguishing number. The commissioner shall
206 charge a fee at the rate of two hundred fifty dollars per annum for each
207 general distinguishing number.

208 (c) A registrant shall furnish proof of financial responsibility to the
209 commissioner as provided by section 14-112.

210 (d) Except as provided in this subsection, no registrant shall rent or
211 allow or cause to be rented, operate or allow or cause to be operated for
212 hire, use or cause to be used for the purpose of conveying passengers,
213 merchandise or freight for hire, or operate as a commercial vehicle with

214 a load, any motor vehicle registered under a transporter number plate.
215 The number plate shall not be loaned to any person and shall not be
216 used by its holder for personal purposes. The registrant who holds a
217 transporter number plate may operate, or cause to be operated by a bona
218 fide employee, motor vehicles for the purpose of transportation or
219 repossession of motor vehicles owned by [him] such registrant or
220 temporarily in [his] such registrant's custody. Such number plate may
221 be used for the movement on a contract or other basis of a storage or
222 office trailer, house trailer, modular building or similar, nonpower
223 trailing unit having unitized construction and to which a removable axle
224 assembly is attached. Any dealer in boats may use, or allow or cause to
225 be used, any trailer so registered for the purpose of transporting a boat
226 or boats, together with any necessary equipment, between a
227 demonstration site and [his] such dealer's established place of business.

228 (e) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (d) of this
229 section shall be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more
230 than five hundred dollars.

231 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 14-52a of the general statutes is
232 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
233 *1, 2024*):

234 (a) The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, refuse to grant
235 or renew a license to a person, firm or corporation to engage in the
236 business of selling or repairing motor vehicles pursuant to the
237 provisions of section 14-52 if the applicant for, or holder of, such a
238 license, or an officer or major stockholder, if the applicant or licensee is
239 a firm or corporation, has been found liable in a civil action for odometer
240 fraud or operating a dealer, repairer or motor vehicle recycler business
241 without a license, convicted of a violation of any provision of laws
242 pertaining to the business of a motor vehicle dealer or repairer,
243 including a motor vehicle recycler, or convicted of any violation of any
244 provision of laws involving fraud, larceny or deprivation or
245 misappropriation of property, in the courts of the United States or any
246 state. Upon renewal of such license, a licensee shall make full disclosure

247 of any such civil judgment or conviction under penalty of false
248 statement. Each applicant for such a license shall be fingerprinted and
249 submit to state and national criminal history records checks, conducted
250 in accordance with section 29-17a. [, not more than thirty days before
251 such application is made and provide the results of such records checks
252 to the Department of Motor Vehicles.] The commissioner may require a
253 person, firm or corporation to submit its application electronically.
254 [Upon renewal of such license, a licensee shall make full disclosure of
255 any such civil judgment or conviction under penalty of false statement.]

256 Sec. 6. Section 14-67l of the general statutes is repealed and the
257 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

258 (a) Upon receiving such certificate of approval pursuant to section 14-
259 67i, each applicant for an issuance of a motor vehicle recycler's license
260 shall [present] (1) submit such certificate of approval to the
261 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, [together with] (2) pay a fee of two
262 hundred eighty dollars to the commissioner for the examination of the
263 location or proposed location of each such motor vehicle recycler's yard
264 or business, [and shall] (3) pay a license fee of seven hundred five dollars
265 to [said] the commissioner for each motor vehicle recycler's yard or
266 business, and (4) submit a surety bond in the amount of twenty-five
267 thousand dollars.

268 (b) Any surety bond submitted pursuant to subsection (a) or (d) of
269 this section shall be conditioned upon the applicant or licensee
270 complying with the provisions of any state or federal law or regulation
271 relating to the business of operating a motor vehicle recycler's yard and
272 provided as indemnity for any loss sustained by any aggrieved
273 customer by reason of any acts of the licensee constituting grounds for
274 suspension or revocation of the license or such licensee going out of
275 business. Each surety bond shall be executed in the name of the state of
276 Connecticut for the benefit of any aggrieved customer, but the penalty
277 of the bond shall not be invoked except upon order of the commissioner
278 after a hearing held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. The
279 commissioner shall assess an administrative fee of two hundred dollars

280 against any licensee for failing to provide proof of bond renewal or
281 replacement on or before the date of the expiration of the existing bond.

282 (c) Except as provided in subsection [(b)] (e) of this section, upon
283 receipt of such certificate of approval, the payment of the required
284 [license fee] fees, the submission of such surety bond and observance of
285 regulations required, the commissioner may issue a license [shall be
286 issued by the commissioner] provided [, however,] the commissioner
287 may refuse to grant a license to a person, firm or corporation to engage
288 in the business of operating a motor vehicle recycler's yard if the
289 applicant for such [business] license or an officer or major stockholder,
290 if the applicant is a firm or corporation, has been convicted of a violation
291 of any provision of laws pertaining to the business of a motor vehicle
292 dealer or repairer, including a motor vehicle recycler, in the courts of the
293 United States or of this state or any state of the United States, in
294 accordance with the hearing requirements provided for in section 14-
295 67p.

296 (d) Any license may be renewed on a biennial basis upon payment of
297 a fee of seven hundred dollars and submission of a surety bond in the
298 amount of twenty-five thousand dollars. Each such licensee shall,
299 instead of registering each motor vehicle owned by [him, make
300 application] the licensee, apply to the commissioner for a general
301 distinguishing number and mark, and the commissioner may issue to
302 the applicant a certificate of registration containing the distinguishing
303 number and mark assigned to such licensee and, thereupon, each motor
304 vehicle owned by such licensee shall be regarded as registered under
305 such general distinguishing number and mark. No licensee may be
306 issued more than three registrations under a general distinguishing
307 number and mark in a year, unless [he makes application] the licensee
308 applies for an additional registration to the commissioner, in such form
309 and containing such information as [he] the commissioner may require
310 to substantiate such request. The commissioner may issue to each such
311 licensee such additional registrations as [he] the commissioner deems
312 necessary. The licensee shall issue to each person driving such motor
313 vehicle a document indicating that such person is validly entrusted with

314 the vehicle, which document shall be carried in the motor vehicle. The
315 commissioner shall determine the form and contents of [this] such
316 document. For the registration of each motor vehicle under a general
317 distinguishing number and mark, the commissioner shall charge a fee
318 at the rate of seventy dollars per year. Such licensee shall furnish proof
319 of financial responsibility satisfactory to the commissioner, as [defined]
320 described in section 14-112. Such number plates may be used as
321 provided for under section 14-67n.

322 [(b)] (e) Each applicant for a recycler's license shall be required to
323 certify that, to the best of such applicant's knowledge and belief, all the
324 property to be used for the operation of the yard and business is in
325 compliance with the provisions of all applicable provisions of title 22a
326 and all regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Energy and
327 Environmental Protection pursuant to the provisions of said title. Upon
328 receipt of such certification and completed application, the
329 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall notify the Commissioner of
330 Energy and Environmental Protection. The notification shall include a
331 statement of the location of the subject property and a legal description
332 thereof. Within forty-five days of receipt of such notification, the
333 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall inform the
334 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles if there is any reason to believe that
335 the property that is proposed to be licensed is not in compliance with
336 the above referenced statutory and regulatory requirements. If the
337 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is informed that there is any such
338 reason to believe that the subject location is not in compliance with such
339 requirements, said commissioner may (1) refuse to issue the license, or
340 (2) issue the license subject to such conditions, including, but not limited
341 to, the remediation of the conditions causing the suspected violation or
342 violations, as are acceptable to the Commissioner of Energy and
343 Environmental Protection.

344 Sec. 7. Section 14-69 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is
345 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
346 *1, 2024*):

347 (a) No person shall engage in the business of conducting a drivers'
348 school without being licensed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.
349 An application for a license shall be in writing and shall contain such
350 information as the commissioner requires. Each applicant for a license
351 or the renewal of a license shall be fingerprinted before such application
352 is approved. The commissioner shall subject each applicant for a license
353 or the renewal of a license to state and national criminal history records
354 checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, and a check of the
355 state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section
356 17a-101k. If any such applicant has a criminal record or is listed on the
357 state child abuse and neglect registry, the commissioner shall make a
358 determination whether to issue a license or renew a license to conduct a
359 drivers' school in accordance with the standards and procedures set
360 forth in section 14-44 and the regulations adopted pursuant to said
361 section. If the application is approved, the applicant shall be granted a
362 license upon (1) the payment of a fee of seven hundred dollars, and (2)
363 for each place of business operated by such drivers' school, the
364 submission of a surety bond in the amount of fifty thousand dollars
365 from a surety company authorized to do business in this state,
366 conditioned upon the faithful performance by the applicant of any
367 contract to furnish instruction. [, in such amount as the commissioner
368 may require.] Such surety bond shall be held by the commissioner to
369 satisfy any execution issued against such school in a cause arising out of
370 failure of such school to perform such contract. A licensee may operate
371 a drivers' school at an additional place of business, provided such
372 licensee holds a license to conduct such school at each such additional
373 place of business and complies with the requirements of this part and
374 the regulations adopted under section 14-78. For each additional place
375 of business of such school, the commissioner shall charge a fee of one
376 hundred seventy-six dollars, except if the licensee opens an additional
377 place of business with one year or less remaining on the term of its
378 license, the commissioner shall charge a fee of eighty-eight dollars for
379 each such additional place of business for the year, or any part thereof,
380 remaining on the term of such license. No license or surety bond shall
381 be required in the case of any board of education, or any public, private

382 or parochial school, which conducts a course in driver education
383 established in accordance with sections 14-36e and 14-36f. A license so
384 issued shall be valid for two years. The commissioner shall issue a
385 license certificate or certificates to each licensee, one of which shall be
386 displayed in each place of business of the licensee. In case of the loss,
387 mutilation or destruction of a license certificate, the commissioner shall
388 issue a duplicate license certificate to the licensee upon proof of the facts
389 and the payment of a fee of twenty dollars.

390 (b) The biennial fee for the renewal of a license shall be seven hundred
391 dollars and the biennial renewal fee for each additional place of business
392 shall be one hundred seventy-six dollars, except if the licensee opens an
393 additional place of business with one year or less remaining on the term
394 of its license, the commissioner shall charge a fee of eighty-eight dollars
395 for each such additional place of business for the year, or any part
396 thereof, remaining on the term of such license. If the commissioner has
397 not received a complete renewal application and all applicable renewal
398 fees on or before the expiration date of an applicant's license, the
399 commissioner shall charge such applicant, in addition to such renewal
400 fees, a late fee of seven hundred dollars. Upon the expiration date of a
401 license, the licensee shall cease to conduct business until such time as
402 the licensee's application for renewal is approved by the commissioner.
403 The commissioner shall not renew any license under this section that
404 has expired for more than sixty days and the holder of any such expired
405 license may apply for a new license in accordance with the provisions
406 of this section.

407 (c) Any person who engages in the business of conducting a drivers'
408 school without being licensed in accordance with this section shall be
409 guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

410 Sec. 8. Section 14-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the
411 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

412 (a) (1) No person shall be employed by a drivers' school to give
413 instruction in driving a motor vehicle unless such person is licensed to
414 act as an instructor or master instructor by the commissioner.

415 (2) The driver's school employing an instructor's licensee or a master
416 instructor's licensee shall be responsible for ensuring any such licensee
417 is in compliance with the requirements of this part and any regulations
418 adopted under section 14-78.

419 (b) Application for an instructor's license or a master instructor's
420 license shall be in writing and shall contain such information as the
421 commissioner requires. Each applicant for [a] an instructor's license or a
422 master instructor's license, or for any renewal thereof, shall be
423 fingerprinted and shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
424 commissioner that such applicant: (1) Is of good moral character
425 considering such person's state and national criminal history records
426 checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, and record, if any,
427 on the state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to
428 section 17a-101k. If any applicant for a license or the renewal of a license
429 has a criminal record or is listed on the state child abuse and neglect
430 registry, the commissioner shall make a determination of whether to
431 issue or renew an instructor's license or master instructor's license in
432 accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in section 14-44
433 and the regulations adopted pursuant to said section; (2) has held a
434 license to drive a motor vehicle for the past five consecutive years and
435 has a driving record satisfactory to the commissioner, including no
436 record of a conviction or administrative license suspension for a drug or
437 alcohol-related offense during such five-year period; (3) has passed a
438 physical examination, administered not more than ninety days prior to
439 the date of application, by a physician, physician assistant or an
440 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to practice within the state
441 and the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered
442 nurse certifies that the applicant is physically fit to operate a motor
443 vehicle and provide instruction in driving; (4) has received a high school
444 diploma or has an equivalent academic education; and (5) has
445 completed an instructor training course of forty-five clock hours given
446 by a school or agency approved by the commissioner, except that any
447 such course given by an institution under the jurisdiction of the board
448 of trustees of the Connecticut State University System shall be approved
449 by the commissioner and the State Board of Education. During the

450 period of licensure, an instructor shall notify the commissioner, within
451 forty-eight hours, of an arrest or conviction for a misdemeanor or felony,
452 or an arrest, conviction or administrative license suspension for a drug
453 or alcohol-related offense. Upon such notification, the commissioner
454 may suspend, revoke or withdraw the instructor's license or master
455 instructor's license pursuant to the provisions of section 14-79, as
456 amended by this act.

457 (c) The commissioner may deny the application of any person for an
458 instructor's license or a master instructor's license if the commissioner
459 determines that the applicant has made a material false statement or
460 concealed a material fact in connection with [his or her] such person's
461 application for the instructor's license or master instructor's license.

462 (d) The commissioner shall conduct such written, oral and practical
463 examinations, as the commissioner deems necessary, to determine
464 whether an applicant has sufficient skill in the operation of motor
465 vehicles to ensure their safe operation, a satisfactory knowledge of the
466 motor vehicle laws and the ability to impart such skill and knowledge
467 to others. If the applicant successfully completes the examinations and
468 meets all other requirements of this section, the commissioner shall issue
469 an instructor's license or a master instructor's license, as the case may
470 be, to such applicant. The license shall be valid for use only in
471 connection with a drivers' school or schools licensed pursuant to section
472 14-69, as amended by this act. If the applicant fails the examination, such
473 applicant may apply for reexamination after five days. The license and
474 the license renewal shall be valid for two years.

475 (e) The licensee shall be reexamined periodically in accordance with
476 standards specified in regulations adopted under section 14-78.

477 (f) The commissioner may establish, by regulations adopted in
478 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, standards and procedures
479 for the training and licensing of master instructors who are qualified to
480 train driving instructors.

481 (g) The fee for an instructor's license, or for any renewal thereof, shall

482 be one hundred dollars. The fee for a master instructor's license, or for
483 any renewal thereof, shall be two hundred dollars. If the commissioner
484 has not received a complete renewal application and fee on or before the
485 expiration date of an applicant's license, such applicant shall be charged,
486 in addition to the renewal fee, a late fee in an amount equal to the fee
487 for such applicant's license. The commissioner shall not renew an
488 instructor's license or a master instructor's license that has expired for
489 more than sixty days and the holder of any such expired license may
490 apply for a new license in accordance with the provisions of this section.

491 (h) An instructor's licensee or a master instructor's licensee shall
492 prominently display or wear an identification badge issued by the
493 employing driver's school at all times when providing classroom or
494 behind-the-wheel instruction. Such identification badge shall include
495 the licensee's name, photograph and license number, the expiration date
496 of such license and the name of the employing driver's school. The
497 employing driver's school shall be responsible for ensuring an
498 instructor's licensee and master instructor's licensee wears such
499 identification badge in accordance with the provisions of this
500 subsection.

501 [(h)] (i) Any person who is not licensed in accordance with this
502 section shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor if such person: (1)
503 Engages in the business of providing, for compensation, instruction in
504 driving a motor vehicle; or (2) is employed by a drivers' school to give
505 instruction in driving a motor vehicle.

506 Sec. 9. Section 14-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the
507 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

508 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the
509 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may, after notice and an opportunity
510 for a hearing, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, (1)
511 suspend, revoke or withdraw the license or licenses of any licensee, or
512 (2) impose a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for each
513 violation on any person or firm, that violates any provision of this part
514 or any regulation adopted under section 14-78. In addition to, or in lieu

515 of, the imposition of any penalty authorized by this section, the
516 commissioner may order any such licensee, person or firm to make
517 restitution to any aggrieved customer.

518 (b) If the commissioner determines that an imminent threat to public
519 safety or welfare exists by reason of a licensee's continued possession of
520 an instructor's license or a master instructor's license, the commissioner
521 shall suspend, revoke or withdraw such license and schedule a hearing,
522 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, not later than twenty
523 days after the date of such suspension, revocation or withdrawal.

524 Sec. 10. Section 14-103a of the general statutes is repealed and the
525 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

526 [Any motor vehicle that (1) has been reconstructed, (2) is composed
527 or assembled from the several parts of other motor vehicles, (3) the
528 identification and body contours of which are so altered that the vehicle
529 no longer bears the characteristics of any specific make of motor vehicle,
530 or (4)]

531 (a) For the purposes of this section:

532 (1) "Altered vehicle" means a motor vehicle that has been materially
533 modified from its original construction by the removal, addition or
534 substitution of essential parts, new or used;

535 (2) "Composite vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is (A) composed
536 or assembled from several parts of other motor vehicles, (B) assembled
537 from a motor vehicle kit, or (C) has been altered, assembled or modified
538 from the original manufacturer's specifications;

539 (3) "Grey-market vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is manufactured
540 for use outside of, and imported into, the United States and is not
541 certified to meet motor vehicle safety standards promulgated by the
542 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or emission standards
543 promulgated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency at the
544 time the motor vehicle was manufactured;

545 (4) "Major component parts" has the same meaning as provided in
546 subsection (a) of section 14-149a; and

547 (5) "Salvage vehicle" means a motor vehicle that has been declared a
548 total loss by any insurance carrier and subsequently reconstructed. [,]

549 (b) Any motor vehicle that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
550 deems to be an altered vehicle, composite vehicle, grey-market vehicle
551 or salvage vehicle shall be inspected by the commissioner to determine
552 whether the vehicle is properly equipped [,] and in good mechanical
553 condition. [and in the possession of its lawful owner.] The model year
554 designation for the purpose of registration of a composite motor vehicle
555 inspected in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be the
556 model year that the body of such composite motor vehicle most closely
557 resembles. [Such vehicle shall be presented for inspection at any
558 Department of Motor Vehicles office to conduct such inspection. The
559 commissioner may require any person presenting any such
560 reassembled, altered or reconstructed vehicle for inspection to provide
561 proof of lawful purchase of any major component parts not part of the
562 vehicle when first sold by the manufacturer] Any altered vehicle,
563 composite vehicle or grey-market vehicle shall be presented for
564 inspection at a location of the Department of Motor Vehicles designated
565 by the commissioner. Any salvage vehicle shall be presented for
566 inspection at any motor vehicle dealer or repairer who is licensed in
567 accordance with section 14-52 and authorized by the commissioner to
568 perform such inspection. The commissioner may require [, in
569 accordance with the provisions of this section,] the inspection of any
570 other motor vehicle that has not been manufactured by a person, firm
571 or corporation licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 14-
572 67a.

573 (c) The commissioner may require any person presenting any altered
574 vehicle, composite vehicle, grey-market vehicle or salvage vehicle for
575 inspection to provide proof of lawful purchase of any major component
576 parts that were not part of the vehicle when first sold by the
577 manufacturer.

578 (d) The fee for any inspection required by the provisions of this
579 section shall be eighty-eight dollars. The inspection fee shall be in
580 addition to regular registration fees. [As used in this section,
581 "reconstructed" refers to each motor vehicle materially altered from its
582 original construction by the removal, addition or substitution of
583 essential parts, new or used.]

584 Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 14-276a of the 2024 supplement to
585 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
586 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

587 (b) No person shall operate a school bus, as defined in section 14-275,
588 or a student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212, for the
589 purpose of transporting school children unless such person has, prior to
590 the issuance or renewal of such person's license endorsement: (1)
591 Furnished evidence to the satisfaction of the commissioner that such
592 person meets the physical qualification standards established in 49 CFR
593 391, as amended from time to time; and (2) successfully completed a
594 course in safety training and, in the case of school bus operators, passed
595 an examination in proficiency in school bus operation given by the
596 commissioner. Such proficiency examination shall include a road test
597 administered in [either a type I school bus having a gross vehicle weight
598 exceeding ten thousand pounds or a type II school bus having a gross
599 vehicle weight of ten thousand pounds or less] the appropriate type of
600 school bus based on the public passenger endorsement that such person
601 seeks to hold or renew. Any person who is administered a road test in a
602 school bus with a gross vehicle weight rating not exceeding twenty-six
603 thousand pounds shall not be eligible for a license to operate a school
604 bus with a gross vehicle weight rating exceeding twenty-six thousand
605 pounds. The commissioner shall prioritize scheduling a road test for
606 persons seeking or renewing a public passenger endorsement to operate
607 a school bus. [Any operator administered a road test in a type II school
608 bus shall not be eligible for a license to operate a type I school bus.] Any
609 person who violates any provision of this subsection shall be deemed to
610 have committed an infraction.

611 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) On and after October 1, 2024,
612 each commercial driver's instruction permit issued by the
613 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles prior to October 1, 2024, that is
614 otherwise valid, shall remain valid, according to its terms, and shall
615 authorize each license holder to drive a commercial motor vehicle when
616 accompanied in such vehicle by the holder of a commercial driver's
617 license in accordance with the provisions of section 14-44e of the general
618 statutes, as amended by this act, revision of 1957, revised to January 1,
619 2024, until the expiration of the commercial driver's instruction permit.

620 Sec. 13. Section 14-44c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
621 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
622 *October 1, 2024*):

623 (a) The application for a commercial driver's license or commercial
624 [driver's instruction] learner's permit, shall include the following:

625 (1) The full name and current mailing and residence address of the
626 person;

627 (2) A physical description of the person, including gender, height and
628 eye color;

629 (3) Date of birth;

630 (4) The applicant's Social Security number;

631 (5) The person's statement, under oath, that such person meets the
632 physical qualification standards set forth in 49 CFR 391, as amended
633 from time to time;

634 (6) The person's statement, under oath, that the type of vehicle in
635 which the person has taken or intends to take the driving skills test is
636 representative of the type of motor vehicle the person operates or
637 intends to operate;

638 (7) The person's statement, under oath, that such person is not subject
639 to disqualification, suspension, revocation or cancellation of operating

640 privileges in any state, and that he or she does not hold an operator's
641 license in any other state;

642 (8) The person's identification of all states in which such person has
643 been licensed to drive any type of motor vehicle during the last ten
644 years, and the person's statement, under oath that he or she does not
645 hold an operator's license in any other state; and

646 (9) The person's signature, and certification of the accuracy and
647 completeness of the application, subject to the penalties of false
648 statement under section 53a-157b. The application shall be accompanied
649 by the fee prescribed in section 14-44h.

650 (b) No person who has been a resident of this state for thirty days
651 may drive a commercial motor vehicle under the authority of a
652 commercial driver's license issued by another jurisdiction.

653 (c) At the time of application for a commercial driver's license, the
654 applicant shall make the applicable certification, as required by 49 CFR
655 383.71(b), regarding the type of commerce in which such person shall
656 engage. No commercial driver's license shall be issued to a person who
657 fails to make such certification.

658 (d) On and after November 18, 2024, the commissioner shall request
659 a driver's record from the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, in
660 accordance with 49 CFR 382.725, as amended from time to time, for any
661 person who applies for, renews, transfers or upgrades a commercial
662 driver's license or a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit.
663 The commissioner shall use information obtained from the Drug and
664 Alcohol Clearinghouse solely for the purpose of determining whether
665 such person is qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle and shall
666 not disclose such information to any other person or entity not directly
667 involved in determining whether such person is qualified to operate a
668 commercial motor vehicle. If the commissioner receives notification
669 pursuant to 49 CFR 382.501(a), as amended from time to time, that such
670 person is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle, the
671 commissioner shall not issue, renew or upgrade the commercial driver's

672 license or commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit. If such
673 person currently holds a commercial driver's license or commercial
674 [driver's instruction] learner's permit, the commissioner shall, not later
675 than sixty days after the date the commissioner receives such
676 notification: (1) Downgrade the commercial driver's license to a Class D
677 operator's license, or (2) cancel the commercial [driver's instruction]
678 learner's permit. Any person who is denied a commercial driver's
679 license or a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit, or whose
680 license or permit is downgraded or cancelled pursuant to this
681 subsection, shall be granted an opportunity for a hearing in accordance
682 with the provisions of chapter 54.

683 (e) In addition to other penalties provided by law, any person who
684 knowingly falsifies information or certifications required under
685 subsection (a) of this section shall have such person's operator's license
686 or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state suspended for sixty
687 days.

688 Sec. 14. Subsection (h) of section 13b-118 of the general statutes is
689 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
690 *1, 2024*):

691 (h) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not require a
692 transportation network company driver to: (1) Obtain a commercial
693 driver's license or commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit
694 pursuant to section 14-44c, as amended by this act; or (2) register the
695 driver's transportation network company vehicle as a commercial
696 vehicle.

697 Sec. 15. Subdivision (87) of section 14-1 of the general statutes is
698 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
699 *1, 2024*):

700 (87) "Serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the
701 following offenses: (A) Excessive speeding, involving a single offense in
702 which the speed is fifteen miles per hour or more above the posted
703 speed limit, in violation of section 14-218a or 14-219; (B) reckless driving

704 in violation of section 14-222; (C) following too closely in violation of
705 section 14-240 or 14-240a; (D) improper or erratic lane changes, in
706 violation of section 14-236; (E) using a hand-held mobile telephone or
707 other electronic device or typing, reading or sending text or a text
708 message with or from a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device in
709 violation of subsection (e) of section 14-296aa while operating a
710 commercial motor vehicle; (F) driving a commercial motor vehicle
711 without a valid commercial driver's license in violation of section 14-36a
712 or 14-44a, as amended by this act; (G) failure to carry a commercial
713 driver's license in violation of section 14-44a, as amended by this act; (H)
714 failure to have the proper class of license or endorsement, or violation
715 of a license restriction in violation of section 14-44a, as amended by this
716 act; or (I) a violation of any provision of chapter 248, by an operator who
717 holds a commercial driver's license or [instruction] learner's permit that
718 results in the death of another person;

719 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 14-36l of the general statutes is
720 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
721 *1, 2024*):

722 (a) As used in this section, "license" means a motor vehicle operator's
723 license, commercial driver's license or [instruction] learner's permit
724 issued pursuant to this chapter or an identity card issued pursuant to
725 section 1-1h.

726 Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 14-44a of the general statutes is
727 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
728 *1, 2024*):

729 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
730 (1) the holder of a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit
731 when accompanied in the vehicle by the holder of a commercial driver's
732 license, (2) any military personnel who operate commercial motor
733 vehicles solely in connection with their military duties, in accordance
734 with 49 CFR 383.3(c), or (3) any member of the Connecticut National
735 Guard who is qualified to operate a military or commercial motor
736 vehicle in accordance with 49 CFR 383.3(c) and operates such vehicle

737 while performing state military duty.

738 Sec. 18. Subsection (b) of section 14-44e of the general statutes is
739 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
740 *1, 2024*):

741 (b) The commissioner shall not issue a commercial driver's license or
742 a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit to any applicant
743 who does not meet the physical qualification standards set forth in 49
744 CFR 391, as amended from time to time. As required by 49 CFR
745 383.71(h), each applicant for a commercial driver's license or commercial
746 [driver's instruction] learner's permit shall provide to the commissioner
747 a copy of a medical examiner's certificate, prepared by a medical
748 examiner, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, indicating that such applicant is
749 medically certified to operate a commercial motor vehicle. For each
750 applicant who has submitted such medical certification and who has
751 also certified, in accordance with 49 CFR 383.71(b) and subsection (c) of
752 section 14-44c, as amended by this act, that such applicant operates in
753 nonexcepted interstate commerce, the commissioner shall post a
754 medical certification status of "certified" on the Commercial Driver's
755 License Information System driver record for such applicant. The holder
756 of a commercial driver's license who has not been examined and
757 certified as qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle during the
758 preceding twenty-four months, or a shorter period as indicated by the
759 medical examiner submitting such certificate, shall be required to
760 submit a new medical certificate. The commissioner shall not issue a
761 commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's instruction]
762 learner's permit to any applicant or holder who fails to submit the
763 medical certification required by this section. If the holder of a
764 commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's instruction]
765 learner's permit fails to submit a new medical examiner's certificate
766 before the expiration of twenty-four months or the period specified by
767 the medical examiner, whichever is shorter, the commissioner shall, not
768 later than sixty days after the date that such holder's medical status
769 becomes uncertified: (1) Downgrade the commercial driver's license to
770 a Class D operator's license; or (2) cancel the commercial [driver's

771 instruction] learner's permit. Any applicant or holder who is denied a
772 commercial driver's license or a commercial [driver's instruction]
773 learner's permit, or whose license or permit is disqualified, suspended,
774 revoked or cancelled pursuant to this subsection, shall be granted an
775 opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter
776 54.

777 Sec. 19. Subsections (g) and (h) of section 14-44e of the general statutes
778 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
779 *October 1, 2024*):

780 (g) The commissioner may issue a commercial [driver's instruction]
781 learner's permit to any person who holds a valid operator's license. Such
782 permit may be issued for a period not exceeding one year. Any holder
783 of a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit who has not
784 obtained a commercial driver's license on or before the expiration date
785 of such permit shall be required to retake the commercial driver's license
786 knowledge test and any applicable endorsement knowledge tests. The
787 holder of a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit may,
788 unless otherwise disqualified or suspended, drive a commercial motor
789 vehicle if such holder is accompanied by the holder of a commercial
790 driver's license of the appropriate class and bearing endorsements for
791 the type of vehicle being driven who occupies a seat beside the
792 individual for the purpose of giving instruction in driving the
793 commercial motor vehicle. The commissioner shall not administer a
794 commercial driver's license driving skills test to any holder of a
795 commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit unless such person
796 has held such permit for a minimum period of fourteen days.

797 (h) (1) The commissioner shall deny or disqualify for a period of sixty
798 days a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit or commercial
799 driver's license if it is determined that an applicant or holder has
800 provided false information on any certification the applicant or holder
801 is required to give relative to such permit or license application.

802 (2) If an applicant or holder is suspected of fraud related to the
803 issuance of a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit or

804 commercial driver's license, such applicant or holder shall be required
805 to schedule the commercial driver's license knowledge test and driving
806 skills test not later than thirty days after notification by the
807 commissioner of the suspected fraud. Failure to schedule both such tests
808 or failure to pass both such tests shall result in disqualification of such
809 permit or license and the applicant or holder shall be required to reapply
810 for the permit or license.

811 (3) Any applicant or holder convicted of fraud related to the issuance
812 of a commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit or commercial
813 driver's license shall have such applicant's or holder's permit or license
814 disqualified for one year from the date of conviction and shall be
815 required to retake such tests.

816 Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 14-44i of the general statutes is
817 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
818 *1, 2024*):

819 (b) There shall be charged for each commercial driver's license
820 knowledge test a fee of sixteen dollars. There shall be charged for each
821 commercial driver's license skills test a fee of thirty dollars. There shall
822 be charged for each commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit a
823 fee of twenty dollars.

824 Sec. 21. Subsection (h) of section 14-44k of the general statutes is
825 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
826 *1, 2024*):

827 (h) A person is disqualified for life if such person commits two or
828 more of the offenses specified in subsection (b) of this section, or if such
829 person is the subject of two or more findings by the commissioner under
830 subsection (c) of this section, or any combination of those offenses or
831 findings, arising from two or more separate incidents. A person is
832 disqualified for life if the commissioner takes suspension actions against
833 such person for two or more alcohol test refusals or test failures, or any
834 combination of such actions, arising from two or more separate
835 incidents. Any person disqualified for life, except a person disqualified

836 under subsection (g) of this section, who has both voluntarily enrolled
837 in and successfully completed an appropriate rehabilitation program, as
838 determined by the commissioner, may apply for reinstatement of such
839 person's commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's instruction]
840 learner's permit, provided any such applicant shall not be eligible for
841 reinstatement until such time as such person has served a minimum
842 disqualification period of ten years. An application for reinstatement
843 shall be accompanied by documentation satisfactory to the
844 commissioner that such person has both voluntarily enrolled in and
845 successfully completed a program established and operated by the
846 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services pursuant to
847 chapter 319j, a program operated through a substance abuse treatment
848 facility licensed in accordance with section 19a-491 or the equivalent of
849 either program offered in another state. The commissioner shall not
850 reinstate a commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's
851 instruction] learner's permit that was disqualified for life unless an
852 applicant for reinstatement requests an administrative hearing in
853 accordance with chapter 54, and offers evidence that the reinstatement
854 of such applicant's commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's
855 instruction] learner's permit does not endanger the public safety or
856 welfare. Such evidence shall include, but not be limited to, proof that
857 such applicant has not been convicted of any offense involving alcohol,
858 a controlled substance or a drug during a period of ten years following
859 the date of such applicant's most recent lifetime disqualification. If a
860 person whose commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's
861 instruction] learner's permit is reinstated under this subsection is
862 subsequently convicted of another disqualifying offense, such person
863 shall be permanently disqualified for life and shall be ineligible to
864 reapply for a reduction of the lifetime disqualification. The following
865 shall remain on the driving history record of a commercial motor vehicle
866 operator or commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's
867 instruction] learner's permit holder for a period of fifty-five years, as
868 required by 49 CFR Part 384, as amended from time to time: (1) Any
869 offense specified in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, provided such
870 offense occurred on or after December 29, 2006; (2) each of two or more

871 offenses specified in subsection (b) or (c) of this section that occur within
872 ten years of each other and result in a lifetime disqualification,
873 regardless of when such offenses occur; (3) any conviction under
874 subsection (g) of this section for using a motor vehicle in the commission
875 of a felony involving the manufacture, distribution or dispensing of a
876 controlled substance, committed on or after January 1, 2005.

877 Sec. 22. Subsection (k) of section 14-44k of the general statutes is
878 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
879 *1, 2024*):

880 (k) After taking disqualification action, or suspending, revoking or
881 cancelling a commercial driver's license or commercial [driver's
882 instruction] learner's permit, the commissioner shall update the
883 commissioner's records to reflect such action within ten days. After
884 taking disqualification action, or suspending, revoking or cancelling the
885 operating privileges of a commercial motor vehicle operator or a
886 commercial driver who is licensed or holds a commercial [driver's
887 instruction] learner's permit in another state, the commissioner shall
888 notify the licensing state of such action within ten days. Such
889 notification shall identify the violation that caused such disqualification,
890 suspension, cancellation or revocation.

891 Sec. 23. Subsection (a) of section 17a-696 of the general statutes is
892 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
893 *1, 2024*):

894 (a) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person
895 charged with a violation of section 14-227a, 14-227g or 14-227m,
896 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n or section 53a-
897 56b or 53a-60d or with a class A, B or C felony or to any person who was
898 twice previously ordered treated under this section, subsection (i) of
899 section 17-155y, section 19a-386 or section 21a-284 of the general statutes
900 revised to 1989, or any combination thereof. The court may waive the
901 ineligibility provisions of this subsection for any person, except that the
902 court shall not waive the ineligibility provisions of this subsection for
903 any person charged with a violation of section 14-227a, 14-227g, 53a-56b

904 or 53a-60d if, at the time of the offense, such person was operating a
905 commercial vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, as amended by this act,
906 or held a commercial driver's license or a commercial [driver's
907 instruction] learner's permit.

908 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 17b-137a of the general statutes is
909 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
910 *1, 2024*):

911 (a) The Social Security number of the applicant shall be recorded on
912 each (1) application for a license, certification or permit to engage in a
913 profession or occupation regulated pursuant to the provisions of title
914 19a, 20 or 21; (2) application for a commercial driver's license or
915 commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit completed pursuant
916 to subsection (a) of section 14-44c, as amended by this act; and (3)
917 application for a marriage license made under section 46b-25.

918 Sec. 25. Subsection (c) of section 54-56e of the general statutes is
919 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
920 *1, 2024*):

921 (c) This section shall not be applicable: (1) To any person charged
922 with (A) a class A felony, (B) a class B felony, except a violation of
923 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122 that does not
924 involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force
925 against another person, or a violation of subdivision (3) of subsection (a)
926 of section 53a-122 that does not involve the use, attempted use or
927 threatened use of physical force against another person and does not
928 involve a violation by a person who is a public official, as defined in
929 section 1-110, or a state or municipal employee, as defined in section 1-
930 110, or (C) a violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision
931 of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or section 14-227a or 14-227m,
932 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, subdivision (2)
933 of subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-56b, 53a-60d, 53a-70, 53a-
934 70a, 53a-71, except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, 53a-
935 72a, 53a-72b, 53a-90a, 53a-196e or 53a-196f, (2) to any person charged
936 with a crime or motor vehicle violation who, as a result of the

937 commission of such crime or motor vehicle violation, causes the death
938 of another person, (3) to any person accused of a family violence crime
939 as defined in section 46b-38a who (A) is eligible for the pretrial family
940 violence education program established under section 46b-38c, or (B)
941 has previously had the pretrial family violence education program
942 invoked in such person's behalf, (4) to any person charged with a
943 violation of section 21a-267, 21a-279 or 21a-279a, who (A) is eligible for
944 the pretrial drug education and community service program established
945 under section 54-56i or the pretrial drug intervention and community
946 service program established under section 54-56q, or (B) has previously
947 had (i) the pretrial drug education program, (ii) the pretrial drug
948 education and community service program established under the
949 provisions of section 54-56i, or (iii) the pretrial drug intervention and
950 community service program established under section 54-56q, invoked
951 on such person's behalf, (5) unless good cause is shown, to (A) any
952 person charged with a class C felony, or (B) any person charged with
953 committing a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-
954 71 while such person was less than four years older than the other
955 person, (6) to any person charged with a violation of section 9-359 or 9-
956 359a, (7) to any person charged with a motor vehicle violation (A) while
957 operating a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, as
958 amended by this act, or (B) who holds a commercial driver's license or
959 commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit at the time of the
960 violation, (8) to any person charged with a violation of subdivision (6)
961 of subsection (a) of section 53a-60, (9) to a health care provider or vendor
962 participating in the state's Medicaid program charged with a violation
963 of section 53a-122 or subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-123,
964 or (10) to any person charged with a violation of section 15-132a, [15,133]
965 15-133 or 15-140n.

966 Sec. 26. Subsection (h) of section 54-56g of the general statutes is
967 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
968 *1, 2024*):

969 (h) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable in the case of
970 any person charged with a violation of section 14-227a or 14-227m or

971 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n (1) while
972 operating a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, as
973 amended by this act, or (2) who holds a commercial driver's license or
974 commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit at the time of the
975 violation.

976 Sec. 27. Subsection (b) of section 54-56p of the general statutes is
977 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
978 *1, 2024*):

979 (b) This section shall not be applicable to any person (1) who, at the
980 time of the motor vehicle violation, holds a commercial driver's license
981 or commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit or is operating a
982 commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, as amended by this
983 act, or (2) charged with a motor vehicle violation causing serious injury
984 or death, a motor vehicle violation classified as a felony unless good
985 cause is shown, or a violation of section 14-227a, 14-227g or 14-296aa.

986 Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 54-56r of the 2024 supplement to the
987 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
988 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

989 (a) (1) There is established a pretrial impaired driving intervention
990 program for persons charged with a violation of section 14-227a, 14-
991 227g, 14-227m, 14-227n, subsection (d) of section 15-133 or section 15-
992 140n. The program shall consist of a twelve-session alcohol education
993 component or a substance use treatment component of not less than
994 fifteen sessions, and may also include a victim impact component, as
995 ordered by the court pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

996 (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person:

997 (A) Who has been placed in the pretrial impaired driving intervention
998 program under this section or the pretrial alcohol education program
999 established under section 54-56g, as amended by this act, within ten
1000 years immediately preceding the application;

1001 (B) Who has been convicted of a violation of section 14-227a, 14-227g,

1002 14-227m, 14-227n, 15-132a, subsection (d) of section 15-133 or section 15-
1003 140l, 15-140n, 53a-56b or 53a-60d;

1004 (C) Who has been convicted in any other state at any time of an
1005 offense the essential elements of which are substantially the same as any
1006 statutory provision set forth in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision;

1007 (D) Who is charged with a violation of section 14-227a, 14-227g, 14-
1008 227m or 14-227n (i) and held a commercial driver's license or
1009 commercial [driver's instruction] learner's permit at the time of the
1010 violation; or (ii) while operating a commercial motor vehicle, as defined
1011 in section 14-1, as amended by this act; or

1012 (3) Whose alleged violation caused the serious physical injury, as
1013 defined in section 53a-3, of another person, unless good cause is shown.

1014 Sec. 29. Subsection (b) of section 14-212e of the general statutes is
1015 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1016 *2024*):

1017 (b) The council shall be comprised of the following members: The
1018 Commissioners of Transportation, [Public Safety] Emergency Services
1019 and Public Protection and Motor Vehicles, or their designees; the
1020 president of the Connecticut Employees Union Independent, or such
1021 person's designee; the president of the Connecticut State Police Union,
1022 or such person's designee; and a representative of the Connecticut
1023 Construction Industries Association, designated by the president of said
1024 association. Appointees should be persons with knowledge and
1025 experience concerning highway work zones. Appointments to the
1026 council shall be made not later than November 1, 2008. The chairperson
1027 of the council shall be appointed by the Governor and shall convene the
1028 first meeting of the council not later than December 1, 2008.

1029 Sec. 30. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-10 of the general
1030 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1031 (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

1032 (2) "Motor vehicle record" means any record that pertains to an

1033 operator's license, instruction or learner's permit, identity card,
1034 registration, certificate of title or any other document issued by the
1035 Department of Motor Vehicles. "Motor vehicle record" does not include
1036 any record relating to vessels and certificates of title for vessels, as
1037 provided in section 15-210;

1038 Sec. 31. Subsection (c) of section 14-36d of the general statutes is
1039 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1040 *1, 2024*):

1041 (c) The commissioner may issue, renew or duplicate a license, an
1042 instruction or learner's permit or an identity card pursuant to this title
1043 or section 1-1h by any method that the commissioner deems to be secure
1044 and efficient. If the commissioner determines that an applicant has met
1045 all conditions for such issuance, renewal or duplication, the
1046 commissioner may require that such license, instruction or learner's
1047 permit or identity card be produced at a centralized location and mailed
1048 to the applicant. The commissioner may issue a temporary license,
1049 instruction or learner's permit or identity card for use by the applicant
1050 for the period prior to the applicant's receipt of the permanent license,
1051 instruction or learner's permit or identity card. Such temporary license,
1052 instruction or learner's permit or identity card shall not be required to
1053 contain a photograph or digital image of the applicant as specified in
1054 subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 14-36h. Such temporary
1055 license, instruction or learner's permit or identity card shall have an
1056 expiration date not later than thirty days after the date of issuance and
1057 shall remain valid until the earlier of such expiration date or the date the
1058 applicant receives such license, instruction or learner's permit or
1059 identity card.

1060 Sec. 32. Subsection (a) of section 14-42a of the general statutes is
1061 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1062 *1, 2024*):

1063 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the Commissioner of
1064 Administrative Services shall enter into an agreement with one or more
1065 federally designated organ and tissue procurement organizations to

1066 provide to such organizations access to the names, dates of birth and
 1067 other pertinent information of holders of operator's licenses, instruction
 1068 or learner's permits and identity cards issued pursuant to section 1-1h
 1069 who have registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles an intent
 1070 to become organ and tissue donors. Such access shall be provided in a
 1071 manner and form to be determined by the commissioners, following
 1072 consultation with such organizations, and may include electronic
 1073 transmission of initial information and periodic updating of
 1074 information. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not charge a fee
 1075 for such access pursuant to section 14-50a, but may charge such
 1076 organizations reasonable administrative costs. Information provided to
 1077 such organizations shall be used solely for identifying such holders as
 1078 organ and tissue donors.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-15d
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-35
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-52a(a)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-67l
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-69
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-73
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-79
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	14-103a
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	14-276a(b)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-44c
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	13b-118(h)
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-1(87)
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-36l(a)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-44a(b)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-44e(b)
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-44e(g) and (h)
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-44i(b)
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-44k(h)
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-44k(k)

Sec. 23	October 1, 2024	17a-696(a)
Sec. 24	October 1, 2024	17b-137a(a)
Sec. 25	October 1, 2024	54-56e(c)
Sec. 26	October 1, 2024	54-56g(h)
Sec. 27	October 1, 2024	54-56p(b)
Sec. 28	October 1, 2024	54-56r(a)
Sec. 29	July 1, 2024	14-212e(b)
Sec. 30	October 1, 2024	14-10(a)(2)
Sec. 31	October 1, 2024	14-36d(c)
Sec. 32	October 1, 2024	14-42a(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(d), subdivision and subparagraph designators were added and provisions reordered for clarity; in Section 2(a), "received documents" was changed to "application" for accuracy; Section 2(b)(4) was rewritten for consistency; in Section 4(d), "his" was changed to "such dealer's" for consistency; Section 6 was rewritten for clarity; and Sections 30 to 32, inclusive, were added to conform with the changes being made in Section 13.

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 - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account - Revenue Gain/ Loss	See Below	See Below
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Municipal Police Departments	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

Sections 1 through 3 establish a process for registration and titling companies to receive an electronic issuance license from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). These sections establish a \$250 application and renewal fee, a \$100 renewal late fee, and a fee of up to \$2,000 for non-compliance, resulting in a revenue gain from fees.

Additionally, applicants must submit to fingerprint-based state criminal history records checks, resulting in a revenue gain to the

General Fund¹ and a potential revenue gain to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission account in the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and municipal police departments beginning in FY 25.² It is unknown how many persons will apply for this license.

Section 4 imposes a \$100 late fee on transporter registrations and is expected to result in Special Transportation Fund (STF) revenue gain of less than \$10,000 annually from fees.

Section 6 requires motor vehicle recyclers to furnish a surety bond and imposes a \$200 administrative fee for non-compliance, resulting in potential STF revenue gain from fees.

Section 8, which expands existing class B misdemeanors pertaining to drivers' schools, results in a potential cost to the Judicial Department and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800 each year.³ Since 2014, there has been no revenue collected for this violation. Few, if any, violations are expected in the future.

The remaining sections of the bill are technical, make conforming changes, or otherwise do not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipality.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of electronic issuance

¹DESPP conducts state criminal history records checks for a fee of \$75, and the revenue that is collected from this fee is deposited into the General Fund.

²DESPP conducts fingerprinting for a fee of \$15 fee per person paid to the non-lapsing Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account. Funds in this account are used for IT support and maintenance for the fingerprinting systems. Municipal police departments may also conduct required fingerprinting and generally charge a fee of \$10 to \$15.

³ Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

license applications and renewals, violations, or as otherwise described above.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 183****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.**

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Requires registration and title companies that file applications electronically to get an electronic issuance license from DMV and establishes a licensing process and licensee operating requirements; lowers the threshold at which these companies are required to file electronically; increases the total amount of surety bonds these companies must provide

§ 4 — MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSPORTER REGISTRATION

Imposes a late fee for failing to timely renew a transporter registration and prohibits DMV from renewing one 45 days after expiration

§ 5 — DEALER AND REPAIRER BACKGROUND CHECKS

Modifies the requirements for fingerprinting and background checks for applicants for a new or renewed motor vehicle dealer's or repairer's license

§ 6 — MOTOR VEHICLE RECYCLERS SURETY BONDS

Requires motor vehicle recyclers to furnish a \$25,000 surety bond

§§ 7-9 — COMMERCIAL DRIVING SCHOOLS AND INSTRUCTORS

Increases the surety bond amount for driving schools to \$50,000 per location, requires driving instructors to wear ID badges while providing instruction, and makes other changes related to driving school and instructor licensees

§ 10 — ALTERED, COMPOSITE, GREY-MARKET, AND SALVAGE
VEHICLES

Requires that salvage vehicles be inspected by DMV-authorized repairers rather than DMV and defines the different categories of

altered vehicles that must be inspected before titling and registering them

§§ 11-32 — MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes numerous minor and technical changes, principally to change references to “commercial driver’s instruction permit” to “commercial learner’s permit,” conforming to the term used in federal law

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) business licensing statutes and other DMV-related changes. Among other things, it:

1. requires registration and title companies that file registration and title applications electronically to get an electronic issuance license,
2. requires motor vehicle recyclers to furnish a \$25,000 surety bond,
3. increases the surety bond amount for driving schools to \$50,000 per location,
4. requires driving instructors to wear ID badges while providing instruction, and
5. requires that salvage vehicles be inspected by DMV-authorized repairers rather than DMV.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, unless otherwise noted below.

§§ 1-3 — ELECTRONIC ISSUANCE LICENSES

Requires registration and title companies that file applications electronically to get an electronic issuance license from DMV and establishes a licensing process and licensee operating requirements; lowers the threshold at which these companies are required to file electronically; increases the total amount of surety bonds these companies must provide

The bill modifies the regulatory treatment of people and entities that are engaged in the business of electronically filing, on behalf of their

customers, registration or title applications with DMV (i.e., registration and title companies).

Under current law and department regulations, the DMV commissioner may permit or require a registration and title company to file these applications electronically if, among other things, he determines that the company is qualified based on the conditions set in statute and department regulations.

The bill replaces this authorization with a statutory licensing structure for registration and title companies. The bill prohibits registration and title companies from filing registration and title applications electronically without an “electronic issuance license.” But it allows currently authorized registration and title companies to continue filing applications electronically until January 1, 2025. After this date, these companies are no longer allowed to use the electronic system without an electronic issuance license.

The bill specifically excludes the following entities from the electronic issuance license requirement: licensed motor vehicle dealers, licensed leasing or rental companies, and DMV contractors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, except for the provision allowing currently authorized companies to operate until January 1, 2025, which takes effect upon passage.

Threshold for Filing Electronically

The bill lowers the threshold at which a registration and title company may be required to file applications online. Current law allows the DMV commissioner to require a registration and title company to file applications electronically if he determines that the company files an average of seven or more applications per month. The bill lowers this threshold to five and instead mandates that the DMV commissioner require these companies to file electronically. It also specifies that companies meeting this threshold must apply for an electronic issuance license.

Under the bill, as under existing law, any company that fails or refuses to file applications electronically upon the commissioner's request must pay a \$25 fee for each application it submits.

License Application and Renewal Process

The bill requires electronic issuance license applicants to submit an application with the information DMV requires and pay a \$250 license fee. Applicants for an initial license or a renewal must be fingerprinted and undergo a state and national criminal records check. If the applicant is a firm or corporation, each officer or major stockholder must be fingerprinted and undergo the check.

Under the bill, the DMV commissioner may refuse to grant or renew a license for any reason he reasonably deems necessary. It specifically authorizes him to refuse a license if the applicant or holder (or officer or major stockholder) has been found liable in a civil action or convicted of a violation of laws (1) related to the business of filing registration or title applications or (2) involving fraud, larceny, stalking, embezzlement, bribery, or deprivation or misappropriation of property. The bill also prohibits DMV from granting or renewing a license if the applicant or holder is delinquent on paying sales tax for any business for which it was obligated to. Before refusing to grant or renew a license for any of these reasons, DMV must notify the applicant or licensee and give them an opportunity for a hearing. Under current regulations, DMV can remove a company's authorization for the electronic system under generally the same circumstances, but is not required to provide opportunity for a hearing (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-15d-4).

Under the bill, licenses are generally renewed biennially, but DMV must adopt an initial renewal schedule so that license renewals happen on a staggered basis. If the schedule causes a license to expire more or less than two years from its initial issuance, DMV may charge a prorated license fee. In addition to the required background check, licensees must also fully disclose any civil judgement or conviction described above under penalty of false statement.

At least 45 days before a company's license expires, DMV must send the company a renewal application in the way the commissioner determines. Licensees who do not file the renewal application with the \$250 license fee before their license expires are prohibited from using DMV's electronic system. Applications filed after the license expires are subject to a \$100 late fee. DMV may not renew an electronic issuance license that has been expired more than 45 days.

Surety Bonds

Under current regulations and the bill, registration and title companies that are authorized (or, under the bill, licensed) to file applications electronically must provide surety bonds (see BACKGROUND). The bill increases, from \$25,000 to \$45,000, the total amount of surety bonds they must provide.

Current regulations require registration and title companies to provide surety bonds in the following amounts: (1) \$20,000 as security for monetary loss that DMV suffers as a result of the licensee's loss, destruction, or misuse of the license plates the department assigned the licensee and (2) \$5,000 as security for monetary loss DMV suffers because the licensee failed to remit registration and title fees (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-15d-3(b) & (c)).

In addition to the bonds described above, the bill requires licensees to furnish another \$20,000 bond conditioned on the licensee complying with applicable state and federal laws and regulations and provided as indemnity for any losses a customer sustains because the licensee did not comply with these laws or regulations. This bond must be executed in the name of the state for the benefit of any aggrieved customer, but the penalty of the bond may only be imposed on the DMV commissioner's order after a hearing.

The bill requires DMV to assess a \$200 administrative fee against any electronic issuance licensee that fails to show proof of bond renewal or replacement before an existing bond expires.

License Plate Inventory

Under the bill, as under current regulations, DMV must issue to each licensee an inventory of license plates and other materials related to registration and title transactions. The company is responsible for all the license plates DMV assigns to it. The bill specifies that licensees may use the plates and materials only for registration and title transactions.

The bill specifically requires electronic issuance licensees who stop conducting business to return license plates, title and registration materials, and any applications that it did not act on or complete. The licensee must do so within five business days of the license becoming invalid or the business terminating. Violations are infractions (see BACKGROUND).

Submission of Applications to DMV

As under existing law for registration and title companies, electronic issuance licensees must submit registration and title applications, along with necessary documents, within 10 days after electronically issuing a registration or title. The bill specifies that if the licensee fails to provide DMV with the necessary documents, the department may not process the received documents and must inform the licensee that it failed to submit a completed application.

Consumer Protections and Required Disclosures

The bill establishes various consumer protections for customers of electronic issuance licensees. It caps the fee that licensees may charge their customers at \$25 for each registration or title application.

Under the bill, a licensee may not (1) include the words “Department of Motor Vehicles” or “DMV” or another indication of the department in their business name or (2) act in any way that misleads customers to believe that the licensee represents or otherwise is affiliated with the department.

The bill also requires electronic issuance licensees to give customers a disclosure form as the commissioner prescribes. The form must state (1) the fee that the licensee charges for filing registration and title applications, (2) that the licensee is not affiliated with the department,

(3) information on how the customer may file complaints about the licensee with DMV, and (4) any other information DMV requires. Licensees must require customers to acknowledge the information by signing the form.

Penalty

The bill allows DMV, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, to impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for violations of the electronic issuance license laws, except for violations of the laws on (1) returning license plates and other materials, (2) timely submitting registration and title applications, (3) disclosure forms, and (4) the application fee cap.

§ 4 — MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSPORTER REGISTRATION

Imposes a late fee for failing to timely renew a transporter registration and prohibits DMV from renewing one 45 days after expiration

By law, motor vehicle transporters must annually renew their registrations by the last day of March. The bill imposes a \$100 late fee for motor vehicle transporters who fail to renew their registration before expiration. It also prohibits the commissioner from renewing any transporter's registration once it has been expired for more than 45 days. After that timeframe, a person or entity would have to file an application for a new license.

§ 5 — DEALER AND REPAIRER BACKGROUND CHECKS

Modifies the requirements for fingerprinting and background checks for applicants for a new or renewed motor vehicle dealer's or repairer's license

The bill modifies the requirements for fingerprinting and background checks for applicants for a new or renewed motor vehicle dealer's or repairer's license. Under current law, applicants must be fingerprinted and undergo a state and national criminal history records check no more than 30 days before submitting the application and submit the results of the check to DMV. The bill eliminates the specified timeframe and no longer requires the applicant to submit the results of the check to DMV.

§ 6 — MOTOR VEHICLE RECYCLERS SURETY BONDS

Requires motor vehicle recyclers to furnish a \$25,000 surety bond

The bill imposes a surety bond requirement on motor vehicle recyclers, as is the case under existing law for other DMV-licensed businesses (e.g., dealers and repairers). Applicants seeking a new license or renewing one must furnish a \$25,000 surety bond, conditioned on the applicant or licensee complying with any state or federal law or regulation relating to the business of operating a motor vehicle recycler's yard and provided as indemnity for customers' losses due to licensee actions that constitute grounds for license suspension or revocation or the licensee going out of business. This bond must be executed in the name of the state for the benefit of any aggrieved customer, but the penalty of the bond may only be imposed on the DMV commissioner's order after a hearing.

The bill requires DMV to assess a \$200 administrative fee against any electronic issuance licensee that fails to show proof of bond renewal or replacement before an existing bond expires.

§§ 7-9 — COMMERCIAL DRIVING SCHOOLS AND INSTRUCTORS

Increases the surety bond amount for driving schools to \$50,000 per location, requires driving instructors to wear ID badges while providing instruction, and makes other changes related to driving school and instructor licensees

Surety Bond Increase

Under current DMV regulations, driving schools must provide a surety bond in the amount of \$15,000 per location, up to \$100,000 (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-78-22). The bill increases the required surety bond amount for commercial driving schools to \$50,000 per location with no cap.

By law, these bonds are conditioned on the licensee's faithful performance of any contract to provide instruction and held by DMV to satisfy any execution issued against a school due to the school's failure to adhere to the contract.

School License Requirements

The bill explicitly allows a driving school licensee to operate a school at an additional place of business, as long as they hold a license to operate at that location and comply with the state driving school laws.

(Existing law implies this requirement by setting license fees for additional locations, and the department requires each location to be licensed in practice.)

Instructor ID Badges and Background Checks

The bill requires licensed driving instructors or master instructors to wear an ID badge at all times when providing classroom or behind-the-wheel instruction. The employing driving school must issue the badge, which must contain (1) the licensee's name, photo, and license number; (2) the license expiration date; and (3) the driving school's name.

The bill also requires instructor and master instructor licensees to be fingerprinted and undergo a state and national criminal history records check before their license is renewed. Under current regulations, applicants for renewal only have to undergo a state criminal records check (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-78-51). Under existing regulations and the bill, applicants must also undergo a child abuse and neglect registry check.

The bill also requires licensees renewing their license to provide the same evidence they had to when applying initially, such as evidence that they held a driver's license for the past five years, passed a physical exam, and completed the required instructor training.

School's Responsibility for Instructors

The bill also specifies that a school employing a licensed instructor or master instructor is responsible for ensuring the instructor or master instructor complies with driving school and driving instructor statutes and regulations.

Expired Licenses

By law, DMV may not renew a driving school license, a driving instructor license, or a master instructor license if it has been expired for more than 60 days. The bill explicitly allows the holder of one of these expired licenses to apply for a new license.

Penalties

By law, the DMV commissioner may suspend or revoke a license or impose a civil penalty (up to \$1,000) on any person or firm that violates the driving school or instructor laws after notice and an opportunity for a hearing. The bill explicitly allows him to impose these penalties for violations of the associated regulations.

The bill also expands the commissioner's authority to require that restitution be made to a customer. Under current law, he may require a licensee to do so; under the bill, he may also require this of unlicensed people or firms.

§ 10 — ALTERED, COMPOSITE, GREY-MARKET, AND SALVAGE VEHICLES

Requires that salvage vehicles be inspected by DMV-authorized repairers rather than DMV and defines the different categories of altered vehicles that must be inspected before titling and registering them

Current law establishes inspection requirements for vehicles that (1) have been reconstructed (i.e., materially altered from the original by removing, adding, or substituting essential parts), (2) are composed from several parts of other vehicles, (3) have been altered enough that the vehicle no longer bears the characteristics of a specific make of motor vehicle, or (4) have been declared a total loss by an insurance carrier and subsequently reconstructed.

The bill instead breaks these vehicles out into four defined categories and indicates the inspection requirements for each. Principally, it changes who must inspect vehicles reconstructed after being declared a total loss by an insurer.

Categories

The bill defines four types of vehicles: altered vehicles, composite vehicles, grey-market vehicles, and salvage vehicles.

An "altered vehicle" is one that has been materially modified from its original construction by removing, adding, or substituting essential parts with new or used parts.

A "composite vehicle" is one that (1) is composed or assembled from

several parts of other vehicles; (2) is assembled from a motor vehicle kit; or (3) has been altered, assembled, or modified from the original manufacturer's specifications.

A "grey-market vehicle" is one that is manufactured for use outside of the United States, imported into it, and not certified to meet federal safety or emissions standards at the time the vehicle was manufactured.

A "salvage vehicle" is one that was declared a total loss by an insurance carrier and subsequently reconstructed.

Inspection Requirements

Existing law requires the vehicles falling under the four defined categories to be inspected to determine whether they are properly equipped and in good mechanical condition before they can be titled and registered. Under current law, DMV must conduct all of the inspections. The bill instead requires that inspections of (1) altered, composite, and grey-market vehicles be performed at DMV (at an office the commissioner designates) and (2) salvage vehicles be performed by DMV-authorized licensed repairers.

The bill also eliminates a requirement that DMV determine whether vehicles presented for inspection are in the possession of their lawful owner. But it retains a provision authorizing the commissioner to require someone presenting an altered, composite, grey-market, or salvage vehicle for inspection to show proof of lawful purchase of any major component parts that were not part of the vehicle when sold by the manufacturer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§§ 11-32 — MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes numerous minor and technical changes, principally to change references to "commercial driver's instruction permit" to "commercial learner's permit," conforming to the term used in federal law

The bill makes numerous minor and technical changes. It updates school bus terms to eliminate references to Type I and Type II school buses and instead refer to them by gross vehicle weight rating. It also

updates an obsolete reference to the former Department of Public Safety.

The bill also changes references to “commercial driver’s instruction permit” to “commercial learner’s permit,” conforming to the term used in federal law. It specifies that commercial driver’s instruction permits DMV issued before October 1, 2024, remain valid until they expire.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, except for the provisions updating school bus terms and replacing an obsolete reference, which take effect July 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Surety Bonds

A surety bond is an agreement between three parties – the principal (e.g., business owner), the surety (guarantor), and the obligee (e.g., the government) – that guarantees the principal will fulfill their obligations. Bond premiums are generally a percentage of the bond’s value and vary based on risk-related factors such as credit score and experience.

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. With the various additional charges, the total amount due can be over \$300 but often is less than \$100. An infraction is not a crime, and violators can pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)