

# Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5057

**Title:** AN ACT STANDARDIZING DRIVE-ONLY LICENSES.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/26/2024

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Governor's Office

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill will remove the special denotation on drive-only licenses as to make them visually the same as normal driving credentials while keeping the "not for federal identification" disclaimer present. This bill follows certain states not accepting CT issued identifications intended only for driving. This change would help protect CT residents in possession of drive-only licenses while bringing CT in line with majority of other states that issue drive-only licenses.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Antonio Guerrero, Commissioner, CT Department of Motor Vehicles:** Guerrero voices his strong support of the bill. Guerrero points out that of the 19 states that offer drive-only licenses to residents unable to establish lawful presence CT is one of only two states that have a visual difference between the standard licenses. This difference allows other states to target individuals who have a drive-only licenses and means that the first thing law enforcement sees is their immigration status. This bill would make as of January 1, 2025, CT drive-only licenses look like other driving credentials issued by the DMV but would continue to state that it is "not for federal identification." Guerrero believes that this bill is important to protect our residents and keep the original mission of drive-only licenses intact.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, CT ACLU:** Zaccagnino voices her support of the bill stating that CT is one of only two states where drive-only licenses look visibly different from other driving credentials. Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island have already made

this change and CT should follow suit as right now drive-only licenses only get in the way of CT residents being safe.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**The following individuals voiced their opposition to the bill:**

**Beverly Allen  
Laura Barrow  
Susan Bradford  
Leon Clark  
Paul Erasmus  
Gayle Parks  
Jay Snukis  
Benjamin Struski  
Nicholas Amato  
Krystin Amato  
Monica Conlogue  
Jeanie Jarzabek  
Christine Nelson  
John Pepper  
Linda Wood  
Gary Corigliano  
2 Anonymous Sources**

**The following individuals voiced their opposition to the bill out of concerns of election fraud:**

**Donna Crowley  
Linda Dalessio  
Jennifer Damon  
Stephanie Esteves  
Barbara Fairbanks  
Marilina Imperati  
Mark Lloret  
August Miller  
Wayne Petroskey  
Julie Price  
Dwight Rollins  
Charles Wailonis  
William Wilson  
Charles Wailonis  
Kim Yannon  
Alton Blodgett  
Terry Campion  
Janet Dahlberg  
Jennifer Damon  
Kevin Debartolomeo  
Debbie Esposito**

**Sally F**  
**Marlane Fitzgerald**  
**Lisa Gregory**  
**Michael Guglielmo**  
**Stephen Mendelsohn**  
**Staci Petroskey**  
**Nicholas Postovoit**  
**Paul Rescanski**  
**Katherine Sarris**  
**Luke Stock**  
**John Svedoric**  
**Susan Weber**  
**David Marchetti**

**Cara Gately, Election Official:** Gately voices her opposition of the bill out of concerns of how it will impact the election process. Currently poll workers are instructed on which drivers licenses are valid for identification and if all drivers licenses look identical poll workers are likely to accept either. She believes this could get poll workers into trouble and could make it difficult to recruit poll workers.

**Vincent Candelora and Jason Perillo, House Republican Office:** Candelora and Perillo voice their opposition to the bill out of concerns of election fraud. While they believe that drive-only licenses are important and share concerns about other states not accepting drive-only licenses they believe that this bill is an overreaction. Currently poll workers know what to look for on licenses but with this change they will no longer be able to tell the difference are concerned it will lead to illegal voting.

**Anne Manusky, President, CT Republican Assembly:** Manusky states her opposition to the bill out of concerns of voter fraud. Manusky criticizes the existence of drive-only licenses and believes that removing the drive-only language would lead to voter fraud by "illegal immigrants" which she points out is already a felony.

**Reported by: Noah Gulla**

**Date: 3/19/24**