

Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5329

AN ACT CONCERNING ROAD SAFETY AUDITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF

Title: TRANSPORTATION.

Vote Date: 3/18/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Joint Committee on Transportation

CO-SPONSORS

Rep. Geraldo Reyes

REASONS FOR BILL:

At present, the process for requesting a Road Safety Audit (RSA), requires communication by an interested party with the CT Department of Transportation (CT DOT), which will begin the process of compiling the information upon request. This bill will require the commissioner of the CT DOT to develop a process for streamlining this process of receiving a RSA when requested, due to the increasing interest in the RSA program by constituents.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Education

Provided commentary on HB5329, explaining the rationale for proposing this legislation. The bill would expand the capabilities of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to conduct RSAs which convey important information to legislators, officials, and constituents. Such abilities have become more pertinent now as the RSA program has seen increased interest since becoming available. Commissioner Eucalitto recommends, in his capacity as Commissioner, that the legislation distinguish between the DOT's obligation to develop RSA processes for state owned roads, and the UConn T2 Center's obligation to do so for local roads, which fall out of the direct jurisdiction of the DOT.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

William Buckbee, CT State Representative, 67th District

Provided testimony in support of the bill expressing hopes that it will make roads safer in his constituency. Buckbee recounts a string of car accidents occurring along Route 7 in New Milford, one of the most congested roadways in the state, and states his belief that BH5329 will assuage the causes of these accidents by making the creation of new safeguards easier.

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Small Towns

Provided testimony in support of the bill on grounds of RSAs being important tools in providing municipalities and regional governments with information on road safety.

Jay Stange, Transport Hartford Coordinator, Center for Latino Progress

Provided testimony in support of the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Nicholas Amato

Provided testimony in opposition to the bill.

Reported by: Garrett Smith

Date: 4/3/24