

# Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-183

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT  
**Title:** OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

**Vote Date:** 3/20/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**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:**

Joint Committee on Transportation

## **CO-SPONSORS**

Rep. Geraldo Reyes

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill seeks to address requests made by the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV). With these requests, it hopes to provide more transparency on certain requirements for certain registrations and applications. Registrations such as, 3<sup>rd</sup> party registration requirements on transactions outside of the agency's branch offices and help with consistency with minimum surety bond requirements for automobile recyclers, as more clarity is needed to help with the way the DMV considers business applications. Along with that, this bill hopes to aide the DMV in being able to authorize penalties on business licenses who fail to renew their transporter plate registrations, as imposing these penalties has been difficult. Certain components of the bill go on to express a more standardized practice for in state licensed driving schools to help with more consistency as well. This can all help to make such services more accessible to consumers.

## **PROPOSED SUBSTITUE LANGUAGE**

The substitute language creates a new section which forbids an entity from electronically filing application for the issuance of a certificate of title for motor vehicles with the DMV unless said entity holds an electronic issuance license issued by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and provide regulations surrounding the distribution of said licenses.

Beginning in line 10, replace the underlined section with language in alignment with provisions made in the above proposed language

Remove Section 2

Create a new section removing permission to use the DMV's electronic filing system from entities previously permitted to do so.

In line 291, add " issuance or renewal of" after "for"

In line 231, delete "location" and add "place of business"

In line 356, add "on or before the expiration date of an applicant's license, the commissioner shall charge such applicant, in addition to such renewal fees, a late fee of seven hundred dollars" after "fees"

In line 360, delete underlined section and replace with "on or before the expiration date of an applicant's license, the commissioner shall charge such applicant, in addition to such renewal fees, a late fee of seven hundred dollars"

In line 368, delete underlined text

In section 7, add a subsection to assert that a driver's school is responsible for ensuring licensees follow regulations

At the end of section 411, add " "as amended by this act."

In line 415 delete "his or her" and replace with "such person's"

In line 444 delete the underlined section and add "and the holder of any such expired license may 488 apply for a new license in accordance with the provisions of this section."

Delete subsections h1 and h2, replace with requirements that instructor and master instructor licensee display identification badges, and what those badges must include

Delete the underlined text between 462-465

In line 507, replace "pass an inspection prior to the registration of such vehicle. The commissioner may authorize any Raised Bill No. 183 LCO No. 1524 17 of 32 motor vehicle dealer or repairer, licensed in accordance with section 14- 52, to perform an inspection of a salvage vehicle as required by this section" with "be presented for inspection at any motor vehicle dealer or repairer who is licensed in accordance with section 14-52 and authorized by the commissioner to perform such inspection"

In line 558, delete "January 1" and add "October 1"

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Tony Guerra, Commissioner, CT Department of Motor Vehicles**

Commissioner Guerra provided testimony in support of the bill, as it was proposed by the DMV to streamline several processes, support customer service and consistent enforcement, and offer additional consumer protections. He support's sections 1 and 2 as they clarify application requirements for 3<sup>rd</sup> party titling and registration for customers outside DMV branch office locations. He endorses section 3 addressing the lack of DMV authority to impose penalties for failure to renew business licenses for transporter plate registrants. Sections 4 and 5 would fix noted inconsistencies in statutes and set a minimum surety bond requirement for car recyclers, as no such requirements exist which could be used to encourage more responsible business practices. Sections 6 and 7 provide much needed oversight over state licensed driving schools and propose increases in the school's surety bond requirement to better align with present costs related to taking a full driver education course. He endorses section 8 as it would enhance customer convenience by authorizing vehicle inspections in certain cases, such as salvage, to be conducted at licensed repairers. This measure, he says, would create efficiencies and reduce DMV staffing and upkeep costs. He clarifies that sections 9 and 10 do not change anything regarding school bus driver preparation, but rather seek to address outdated license classifications and align with current federal CDL licensing requirements. Guerra claims the remainder of the bill, sections 11-26, further bring state regulations into alignment with existing federal language and classifications.

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

#### **Jason Mokhiber, Composite Motor Vehicle Owner**

Provided testimony in support of the bill, as well as suggesting modifications pertaining to the registration of composite vehicles twenty years or older as "antique, rare, or special interest," which would qualify them for the use of special number plates. He claims that supporting this bill with his suggestions would be in the interest of small businesses, especially replica companies and suppliers in the state.

#### **Brandon Dufour, CEO, The Next Street**

Provided testimony in support of the bill, specifically addressing provisions which change the bonding requirements for driving schools and requirements for instructors to display their license while teaching. Dufour agrees the need for bonding requirements will support the interests of driving schools and help them meet their obligations to their customers. Although he does not take dispute with requiring instructors to display their licenses, he does not feel that the requirement will solve the problem it seeks to address. He suggests that instead driving schools be held accountable by providing the DMV with the resources to perform surprise audits and ride-along on lessons.

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

#### **Leo Karl III, President, Karl Chevrolet**

Provided testimony which proposed alternatives to measures proposed in the bill. Firstly, he suggests an increase from \$25 to \$75 in the allowable service charge for hub dealers so that the option is more financially viable for retailers. Secondly, he suggests the DMV create a separate appointment function for dealers which allows the scheduling of as many

transactions as necessary, perhaps with a reasonable cap. This would aid in cutting down on traffic to branch offices.

The following individuals provided testimony expressing opposition to the bill:  
Darlene Buckland

**Reported by: Garrett Smith**

**Date: 4/3/24**