House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 567

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7160

House of Representatives, April 7, 2025

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. BERGER-GIRVALO of the 111th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE AND VESSEL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR OR ANY DRUG, PONTOON BOATS, TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES, VIDEO PRESENTATION UPON LICENSE RENEWAL AND THE SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES COURSE.

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

Section 1. Section 14-15e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

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

(2) A motor vehicle dealer licensed in accordance with section 14-52 and acting pursuant to subsection (c) of section 14-12, subsection (b) of section 14-61 or section 14-61a, a person, firm or corporation engaging in the business of leasing or renting motor vehicles **[**licensed**]** without drivers in this state and acting pursuant to section 14-15 or a contractor authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of section 14-41, may use the department's electronic system for filing applications for the issuance of a certificate of registration or certificate of title, as the case may be, without obtaining an electronic issuance license. The commissioner shall not issue an electronic issuance license to any such motor vehicle dealer, person, firm or corporation or contractor.

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

(b) Each applicant for an electronic issuance license shall submit an application containing such information as the **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may require and pay a license fee in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars. Each license may be renewed biennially according to renewal schedules established by the commissioner to effect staggered renewal of such licenses. If the adoption of a staggered system results in the expiration of any license more or less than two years from its issuance, the commissioner may charge a prorated amount for such license fee. Not less than forty-five days prior to the date of expiration of each such license, the commissioner shall send or transmit to each licensee, in a manner determined by the commissioner, an application for renewal. Any licensee that has not filed the application for renewal accompanied by the license fee of two hundred fifty dollars prior to the expiration date

of such license shall no longer be permitted to use the department's electronic system for filing applications for the issuance of a certificate of registration or certificate of title pursuant to section 14-15d, as amended by this act. An application for renewal filed with the commissioner after the date of expiration shall be accompanied by a late fee of one hundred dollars. The commissioner shall not renew any license under this section that has been expired for more than forty-five days.

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

(d) The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the provisions of

chapter 54, refuse to issue or renew a license to a person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of electronically filing applications for the issuance of a certificate of registration or certificate of title for motor vehicles with the department (1) if the applicant for, or holder of, such a license, or **[**an officer or major stockholder,**]** if the applicant or licensee is a firm or corporation, a director, officer, partner or owner of the firm or corporation or other individual who exercises substantial control over the firm or corporation or who has more than a twenty-five per cent ownership interest in the firm or corporation, has been found liable in a civil action for, or has been convicted of, a violation of any provision of law (A) pertaining to the business of electronic filing applications for the issuance of a certificate of registration or certificate of title, or (B) involving fraud, larceny, stalking, embezzlement, bribery or deprivation or misappropriation of property, in the courts of the United States or any state, or (2) for any reason the commissioner reasonably deems necessary. Upon renewal of such license, a licensee shall make full disclosure of any such civil judgment or conviction under penalty of false statement. Each applicant for the issuance of such license, or if the applicant is a firm or corporation, each **[**officer or major stockholder of such firm or corporation**]** director, officer, partner or owner of the firm or corporation or other individual who exercises substantial control over the firm or corporation or who has more than a twenty-five per cent ownership interest in the firm or corporation, shall be fingerprinted and shall submit to state and national criminal history records checks, conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.

(e) The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not issue or renew an electronic issuance license unless the commissioner determines (1) the issuance or renewal is likely to improve access to services offered by the department or manage the number of transactions conducted at the main office or branch office of the department and will not compromise the integrity and security of the department's electronic system, and (2) the applicant for such license is capable of ensuring the adequate control and proper use of number plates and other materials to be provided by the department pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(f) (1) The **[**department**]** Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide each electronic issuance licensee with an inventory of number plates and other materials to be used solely for the registration of transactions performed pursuant to the provisions of section 14-15d, as amended by this act. Such licensee shall be responsible for all number plates assigned to such licensee by the department.

(2) If a person, firm or corporation holds an electronic issuance license that is no longer valid, or if an electronic issuance licensee is no longer conducting its business, such person, firm or corporation or licensee shall return to the **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than five business days after such license becoming invalid or the termination of such business, (A) any number plates or other materials supplied by the commissioner to enable such person, firm or corporation or licensee to perform the registration of transactions pursuant to section 14-15d, as amended by this act, and (B) any applications for such transactions that were not acted upon or completed by such person, firm or corporation or licensee when it was conducting its business. A violation of any provision of this subdivision shall be an infraction.

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

(h) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this section, the **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54, impose a civil penalty of not more than two thousand dollars on any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of this section.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 14-52a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(a) The [commissioner] Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may, after notice and hearing, refuse to grant or renew a license to a person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of selling or repairing motor vehicles pursuant to the provisions of section 14-52 if the applicant for, or holder of, such a license, or [an officer or major stockholder,] if the applicant or licensee is a firm or corporation, a director, officer, partner or owner of the firm or corporation or other individual who exercises substantial control over the firm or corporation or who has more than a twenty-five per cent ownership interest in the firm or corporation, has been found liable in a civil action for odometer fraud or operating a dealer, repairer or motor vehicle recycler business without a license, convicted of a violation of any provision of laws pertaining to the business of a motor vehicle dealer or repairer, including a motor vehicle recycler, or convicted of any violation of any provision of laws involving fraud, larceny or deprivation or misappropriation of property, in the courts of the United States or any state. Upon renewal of such license, a licensee shall make full disclosure of any such civil judgment or conviction under penalty of false statement. Each applicant for such a license, or if the applicant is a firm or corporation, each director, officer, partner or owner of the firm or corporation or other individual who exercises substantial control over the firm or corporation or who has more than a twenty-five per cent ownership interest in the firm or corporation, shall be fingerprinted and submit to state and national criminal history records checks, conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner may require a person, firm or corporation to submit its application electronically.

Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-36d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) The commissioner may renew or produce a duplicate of any motor vehicle operator's license, commercial driver's license or identity card without personal appearance of the license or card holder if (1) the commissioner has on file a photograph or digital image of the applicant that meets the specifications and standards prescribed by the

commissioner and may be used on such license or identity card, (2) the commissioner has satisfactory evidence of the identity of the applicant, (3) the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant is a legal resident of this state, (4) in the case of a renewal, the applicant personally appeared to renew such license or identity card within the time limitations specified in **[**state or federal law**]** 6 CFR 37.25, as amended from time to time, or a shorter period of time at the discretion of the commissioner, and (5) the applicant meets all other requirements for the renewal or duplicate issuance of a license or identity card.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 14-36j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall amend the regulations adopted pursuant to sections 14-36f and 14-78 concerning the content of safe driving instruction courses offered at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools to require the eight hours of instruction required by such regulations to include, for applicants to whom a learner's permit or youth instruction permit is issued, two hours of instruction concerning the statutory provisions, including penalties, applicable to drivers who are less than eighteen years of age, the dangers of teenage driving, the cognitive development of adolescents, the responsibilities and liabilities of parents of teenage drivers, and related topics deemed by the commissioner to be appropriate. Such course may be offered in person in a congregate setting, through distance learning or through a combination of both in-person in a congregate setting and distance learning, provided such distance learning is conducted in real-time by an instructor, requires camera use by any applicant and has interactive components such as mandatory interactions, participation or testing.

Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 14-44c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(d) On and after November 18, 2024, the commissioner shall request

a driver's record from the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, in accordance with 49 CFR 382.725, as amended from time to time, for any person who applies for, renews, transfers or upgrades a commercial driver's license or a commercial learner's permit. The commissioner shall use information obtained from the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse solely for the purpose of determining whether such person is qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle and shall not disclose such information to any other person or entity not directly involved in determining whether such person is qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle. If the commissioner receives notification pursuant to 49 CFR 382.501(a), as amended from time to time, that such person is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle, the commissioner shall not issue, renew or upgrade the commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit. If such person currently holds a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit, the commissioner shall, not later than sixty days after the date the commissioner receives such notification, **[**: (1) Downgrade the commercial driver's license to a Class D operator's license, or (2) cancel the commercial learner's permit**]** disqualify such person from holding a commercial driver's license or a commercial driver's instruction permit. The commissioner may restore such person's commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit if (1) the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse changes such person's status from prohibited to not prohibited, and (2) such person fulfills applicable reinstatement requirements and pays the restoration fee in accordance with the provisions of section 14-50b. Any person who is denied a commercial driver's license or a commercial learner's permit, or whose license or permit is **[**downgraded or cancelled**]** disqualified pursuant to this subsection, shall be granted an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 14-44e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) The commissioner shall not issue a commercial driver's license or

a commercial learner's permit to any applicant who does not meet the physical qualification standards set forth in 49 CFR 391, as amended from time to time. As required by 49 CFR 383.71(h), each applicant for a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit shall provide to the commissioner a copy of a medical examiner's certificate, prepared by a medical examiner, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, indicating that such applicant is medically certified to operate a commercial motor vehicle. For each applicant who has submitted such medical certification and who has also certified, in accordance with 49 CFR 383.71(b) and subsection (c) of section 14-44c, that such applicant operates in nonexcepted interstate commerce, the commissioner shall post a medical certification status of "certified" on the Commercial Driver's License Information System driver record for such applicant. The holder of a commercial driver's license who has not been examined and certified as qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle during the preceding twenty-four months, or a shorter period as indicated by the medical examiner submitting such certificate, shall be required to submit a new medical certificate. The commissioner shall not issue a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit to any applicant or holder who fails to submit the medical certification required by this section. If the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit fails to submit a new medical examiner's certificate before the expiration of twenty-four months or the period specified by the medical examiner, whichever is shorter, the commissioner shall, not later than sixty days after the date that such holder's medical status becomes uncertified, **[**: (1) Downgrade the commercial driver's license to a Class D operator's license; or (2) cancel the commercial learner's permit**]** disqualify such person from holding a commercial driver's license or a commercial driver's instruction permit. The commissioner may restore such person's commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit if such person fulfills applicable reinstatement requirements and pays the restoration fee in accordance with the provisions of section 14-50b. Any applicant or holder who is denied a commercial driver's license or a commercial learner's permit, or whose license or permit is disqualified, suspended, revoked or

cancelled pursuant to this subsection, shall be granted an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 14-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Each new car dealer, used car dealer or repairer before engaging in such business shall make a separate sworn application to the commissioner for a license to engage in such business in each place of business conducted by such dealer. The application shall include any information that may be required by the commissioner on blanks to be furnished by said commissioner. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred forty dollars for each place of business conducted by the applicant, together with the fee for the type of license for which the applicant is **[**making application**]** applying, and such fee or fees shall not be subject to prorating and shall not be subject to refund. No such license shall be transferable. When such licensee adds buildings or **[**adjacent land to**]** land directly bordering or sharing a common boundary with such licensee's licensed place of business, without any intervening highway or private roadways, the commissioner may require the licensee to furnish satisfactory evidence of compliance with the provisions of section 14-54, or with other applicable provisions of law, administered by the municipality wherein such business is located, concerning building or zoning requirements. When a change of officers of a corporation engaged in such business is made, a notice of the change shall be sent to the commissioner within a period of fifteen days from the date of the change. The commissioner may suspend the license of any corporation, after notice and hearing, when the newly appointed or elected officers cannot be considered as qualified to conduct the business as provided in section 14-51, as amended by this act.

Sec. 8. Section 14-64 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The commissioner may suspend or revoke the license or licenses of any licensee or impose a civil penalty of not more than one thousand

dollars for each violation on any licensee or both, when, after notice and hearing, the commissioner finds that the licensee:

(1) **[**has**]** Has violated any provision of any statute or regulation of any state or any federal statute or regulation pertaining to its business as a licensee or has failed to comply with the terms of a final decision and order of any state department or federal agency concerning any such provision; **[**or**]**

(2) **[**has**]** Has failed to maintain such records of transactions concerning the purchase, sale or repair of motor vehicles or major component parts, as required by such regulations as shall be adopted by the commissioner, for a period of **[**two**]** three years after such purchase, sale or repairs, provided the records shall include the vehicle identification number and the name and address of the person from whom each vehicle or part was purchased and to whom each vehicle or part was sold, if a sale occurred; **[**or**]**

(3) **[**has**]** (A) Has failed to allow inspection of such records by the commissioner or the commissioner's representative during normal business hours, provided written notice stating the purpose of the inspection is furnished to the licensee, or (B) has failed to allow inspection of such records by any representative of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or any organized local police department, which inspection may include examination of the premises to determine the accuracy of such records; **[**or**]**

(4) **[**has**]** Has made a false statement as to the condition, prior ownership or prior use of any motor vehicle sold, exchanged, transferred, offered for sale or repaired if the licensee knew or should have known that such statement was false; **[**or**]**

(5) **[**is**]** Is not qualified to conduct the licensed business, applying the standards of section 14-51, as amended by this act, and the applicable regulations; **[**or**]**

(6) [has] Has violated any provision of sections 42-221 to 42-226, inclusive; [or]

(7) [has] Has failed to fully execute or provide the buyer with (A) an order as described in section 14-62, (B) the properly assigned certificate of title, or (C) a temporary transfer or new issue of registration; [or]

(8) [has] Has failed to deliver a motor vehicle free and clear of all liens, unless written notification is given to the buyer stating such motor vehicle shall be purchased subject to a lien; [or]

(9) [has] Has violated any provision of sections 14-65f to 14-65j, inclusive, and section 14-65*l*; [or]

(10) [has] Has used registration number plates issued by the commissioner, in violation of the provisions and standards set forth in sections 14-59 and 14-60 and the applicable regulations; [or]

(11) [has] Has failed to secure or to account for or surrender to the commissioner on demand official registration plates or any other official materials in its custody; or

(12) [has] Has been convicted, or if the licensee is a firm or corporation, an officer or major stockholder has been convicted, of a violation of any provision of laws pertaining to the business of a motor vehicle dealer or repairer, including a motor vehicle recycler, or of any violation involving fraud, larceny or deprivation or misappropriation of property, in the courts of the United States or of any state, or has failed to make full disclosure of any such conviction.

(b) In addition to, or in lieu of, the imposition of any other penalties authorized by this section, the commissioner may order any such licensee to make restitution to any aggrieved customer.

Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 14-67i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) No person, firm or corporation shall establish, operate or maintain a motor vehicle recycler's yard or motor vehicle recycler's business, unless (1) a certificate of approval of the location to be used therefor has been procured from the board or authority designated by local charter, regulation or ordinance in the town, city or borough wherein such yard or business is located or is proposed to be located, except that in any town or city having a zoning commission, combined planning and zoning commission and a board of appeals, such certificate shall be obtained from the board of appeals, and (2) such person, firm or corporation holds a motor vehicle recycler's license issued pursuant to section 14-67*l*, as amended by this act.

Sec. 10. Section 14-67*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Upon receiving **[**such**]** a certificate of approval pursuant to section 14-67i, as amended by this act, each applicant for an issuance of a motor vehicle recycler's license shall (1) submit such certificate of approval to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, (2) pay a fee of two hundred eighty dollars to the commissioner for the examination of the location or proposed location of each such motor vehicle recycler's yard or business, (3) pay a license fee of seven hundred five dollars to the commissioner for each motor vehicle recycler's yard or business, and (4) submit a surety bond in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars.

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

commissioner shall assess an administrative fee of two hundred dollars against any licensee for failing to provide proof of bond renewal or replacement on or before the date of the expiration of the existing bond.

(c) Except as provided in subsection **[**(e)**]** (f) of this section, upon receipt of such certificate of approval, the payment of the required fees, the submission of such surety bond and observance of regulations required, the commissioner may issue a license, provided the commissioner may refuse to grant a license to a person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of operating a motor vehicle recycler's yard if the applicant for such license or, **[**an officer or major stockholder,**]** if the applicant is a firm or corporation, a director, officer, partner or owner of the firm or corporation or other individual who exercises substantial control over the firm or corporation or who has more than a twenty-five per cent ownership interest in the firm or corporation, has been convicted of a violation of any provision of laws pertaining to the business of a motor vehicle dealer or repairer, including a motor vehicle recycler, in the courts of the United States or of this state or any state of the United States, in accordance with the hearing requirements provided for in section 14-67p.

(d) Any license may be renewed on a biennial basis upon payment of a fee of seven hundred dollars and submission of a surety bond in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars. Upon the expiration date of a license, the licensee shall cease to conduct such licensee's business until such time as the licensee's application for renewal, accompanied by such renewal fee and surety bond, is approved by the commissioner. An application for renewal filed with the commissioner after the date of expiration shall be accompanied by a late fee of one hundred dollars. The commissioner shall not renew any recycler's license under this section that has been expired for more than forty-five days and the holder of any such expired license may apply for a new license in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(e) Each such licensee shall, instead of registering each motor vehicle owned by the licensee, apply to the commissioner for a general

distinguishing number and mark, and the commissioner may issue to the applicant a certificate of registration containing the distinguishing number and mark assigned to such licensee and, thereupon, each motor vehicle owned by such licensee shall be regarded as registered under such general distinguishing number and mark. No licensee may be issued more than three registrations under a general distinguishing number and mark in a year, unless the licensee applies for an additional registration to the commissioner, in such form and containing such information as the commissioner may require to substantiate such request. The commissioner may issue to each such licensee such additional registrations as the commissioner deems necessary. The licensee shall issue to each person driving such motor vehicle a document indicating that such person is validly entrusted with the vehicle, which document shall be carried in the motor vehicle. The commissioner shall determine the form and contents of such document. For the registration of each motor vehicle under a general distinguishing number and mark, the commissioner shall charge a fee at the rate of seventy dollars per year. Such licensee shall furnish proof of financial responsibility satisfactory to the commissioner, as described in section 14-112. Such number plates may be used as provided for under section 14-67n.

[(e)**]** (f) Each applicant for a recycler's license shall be required to certify that, to the best of such applicant's knowledge and belief, all the property to be used for the operation of the yard and business is in compliance with the provisions of all applicable provisions of title 22a and all regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant to the provisions of said title. Upon receipt of such certification and completed application, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall notify the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. The notification shall include a statement of the location of the subject property and a legal description thereof. Within forty-five days of receipt of such notification, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall inform the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles if there is any reason to believe that the property that is proposed to be licensed is not in compliance with

the above referenced statutory and regulatory requirements. If the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is informed that there is any such reason to believe that the subject location is not in compliance with such requirements, said commissioner may (1) refuse to issue the license, or (2) issue the license subject to such conditions, including, but not limited to, the remediation of the conditions causing the suspected violation or violations, as are acceptable to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Sec. 11. Section 14-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) No person shall be employed by a drivers' school to give instruction in driving a motor vehicle unless such person is licensed to act as an instructor or master instructor by the **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

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

(b) Application for an instructor's license or a master instructor's license shall be in writing and shall contain such information as the **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles requires. Each applicant for an instructor's license or a master instructor's license, or for any renewal thereof, shall be fingerprinted and shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that such applicant: (1) Is of good moral character considering such person's state and national criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a, and record, if any, on the state child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. If any applicant for a license or the renewal of a license has a criminal record or is listed on the state child abuse and neglect registry, the commissioner shall make a determination of whether to issue or renew an instructor's license or master instructor's license in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in section 14-44 and the

regulations adopted pursuant to said section; (2) has held a license to drive a motor vehicle for the past five consecutive years and has a driving record satisfactory to the commissioner, including no record of a conviction or administrative license suspension for a drug or alcohol-related offense during such five-year period; (3) has passed a physical examination, administered not more than ninety days prior to the date of application, by a physician, physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to practice within the state and the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse certifies that the applicant is physically fit to operate a motor vehicle and provide instruction in driving; (4) has received a high school diploma or has an equivalent academic education; and (5) has completed an instructor training course of forty-five clock hours given by a school or agency approved by the commissioner, except that any such course given by an institution under the jurisdiction of the board of trustees of the Connecticut State University System shall be approved by the commissioner and the State Board of Education. During the period of licensure, an instructor shall notify the commissioner, within forty-eight hours, of an arrest or conviction for a misdemeanor or felony, or an arrest, conviction or administrative license suspension for a drug or alcohol-related offense. Upon such notification, the commissioner may suspend, revoke or withdraw the instructor's license or master instructor's license pursuant to the provisions of section 14-79.

(c) The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may deny the application of any person for an instructor's license or a master instructor's license if the commissioner determines that the applicant has made a material false statement or concealed a material fact in connection with such person's application for the instructor's license or master instructor's license.

(d) The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall conduct such written, oral and practical examinations, as the commissioner deems necessary, to determine whether an applicant has sufficient skill in the operation of motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation, a satisfactory knowledge of the motor vehicle laws and the

ability to impart such skill and knowledge to others. If the applicant successfully completes the examinations and meets all other requirements of this section, the commissioner shall issue an instructor's license or a master instructor's license, as the case may be, to such applicant. The license shall be valid for use only in connection with a drivers' school or schools licensed pursuant to section 14-69. If the applicant fails the examination, such applicant may apply for reexamination after five days. The license and the license renewal shall be valid for two years.

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

(f) The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish, by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, standards and procedures for the training and licensing of master instructors who are qualified to train driving instructors.

(g) The fee for an instructor's license, or for any renewal thereof, shall be one hundred dollars. The fee for a master instructor's license, or for any renewal thereof, shall be two hundred dollars. If the **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has not received a complete renewal application and fee on or before the expiration date of an applicant's license, such applicant shall be charged, in addition to the renewal fee, a late fee in an amount equal to the fee for such applicant's license. The commissioner shall not renew an instructor's license or a master instructor's license that has expired for more than sixty days and the holder of any such expired license may apply for a new license in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(h) An instructor's licensee or a master instructor's licensee shall prominently display or wear an identification badge issued by the employing drivers' school at all times when providing classroom or behind-the-wheel instruction. Such identification badge shall include the licensee's name, photograph and license number, the expiration date of such license and the name of the employing drivers' school. The employing drivers' school shall be responsible for ensuring an

instructor's licensee and master instructor's licensee wears such identification badge in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

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

Sec. 12. Section 14-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this subpart:

(1) "New car dealer" includes any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of merchandising new motor vehicles under a manufacturer's or importer's contract for each such make of vehicle who may, incidental to such business, sell used motor vehicles and repair motor vehicles. Such person shall be qualified to conduct such business in accordance with the requirements of section 14-52a, as amended by this act.

(2) "Used car dealer" includes any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of merchandising motor vehicles other than new who may, incidental to such business, repair motor vehicles. **[**A used car dealer**]** "Used car dealer" does not include any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of leasing or renting motor vehicles that offers for sale or sells used motor vehicles incidental to its primary business, if (A) such person, firm or corporation is licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 14-15, and (B) the motor vehicles that it offers for sale were formerly the subject of one or more lease agreements to which it was a party and the actual or prospective purchaser is the original lessee pursuant to a purchase option specified in a lease agreement. Such person shall be qualified to conduct such business in accordance with the requirements of section 14-52a, as amended by this act.

(3) "Repairer" includes any person, firm or corporation qualified to conduct such business in accordance with the requirements of section 14-52a, as amended by this act, having a suitable facility and having adequate equipment, engaged in repairing, overhauling, adjusting, assembling or disassembling any motor vehicle or making minor repairs to any motor vehicle, including repairs and replacement of cooling, electrical, fuel and exhaust systems, brake adjustments, relining and repairs, wheel alignment and balancing and repair and replacement of shock absorbers. "Repairer" does not include a person engaged in making repairs to tires, upholstering, glazing, general blacksmithing, welding and machine work on motor vehicle parts when parts involving such work are disassembled or reassembled by a licensed repairer.

(4) "Motor vehicle" does not include a low-speed vehicle.

(b) The lubricating of motor vehicles, adding or changing of oil or other motor vehicle fluids, changing of tires and tubes, including the balancing of wheels, or installing of batteries or light bulbs, windshield wiper blades or drive belts shall not be construed as the repairing of motor vehicles under the provisions of this subpart.

Sec. 13. Section 14-166 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The acquisition of a certificate of title shall not be required and the issuance of a certificate of title by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not be required for the following: (1) A vehicle owned by the United States, unless it is registered in this state; (2) a vehicle owned by a manufacturer or dealer and held for sale, even though incidentally moved on the highway or used for purposes of testing or demonstration; or a vehicle used by a manufacturer solely for testing; (3) a vehicle owned by a nonresident of this state and not required by law to be registered in this state; (4) a vehicle regularly engaged in the interstate transportation of persons or property for which a currently effective certificate of title has been issued in another state; (5) a vehicle moved solely by animal power; (6) an implement of husbandry; (7) special mobile equipment; (8) a self-propelled wheel chair or invalid

tricycle; (9) any trailer having a gross weight not in excess of three thousand pounds; (10) any vehicle for which a temporary registration has been issued pursuant to section 14-12 for the purpose of permitting a nonresident owner who purchases a vehicle in Connecticut to transport such vehicle to such owner's home state; (11) a motor vehicle owned by the state or any town, city or borough within the state; and (12) a motor vehicle registered temporarily for inspection purposes pursuant to section 14-12.

(b) The acquisition of a certificate of title for any motor vehicle older than twenty model years old shall not be required. The commissioner shall issue a certificate of title for a motor vehicle older than twenty model years old at the request of the owner and charge such owner any fees required by section 14-192. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-176, the commissioner shall not require a surety bond as a condition of issuing a certificate of title for any motor vehicle older than twenty model years old.

(c) Part III of this chapter does not apply to: (1) A vehicle moved solely by animal power; (2) an implement of husbandry; (3) special mobile equipment; (4) a self-propelled wheel chair or invalid tricycle; and (5) any trailer having a gross weight not in excess of three thousand pounds.

Sec. 14. Section 15-133 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The rules prescribed by this section shall apply on all state and federal waters.

(b) No person shall use a vessel in a manner that unreasonably or unnecessarily interferes with free and proper navigation. Anchoring under a bridge, in a narrow channel or in a congested water not designated as an anchorage area is such interference, except in case of emergency.

(c) No person shall alter, deface or remove any capacity information

label affixed to any vessel.

(d) No person shall operate a vessel: (1) While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, or (2) while such person has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section and sections 15-140*l* and 15-140n, "elevated blood alcohol content" means: (A) A ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, or (B) if such person is under twenty-one years of age, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight. For the purposes of this section and sections 15-132a, 15-140*l*, 15-140n, 15-140o and 15-140q, as amended by this act, "operate" means that the vessel is underway or aground and not moored, anchored or docked.

(e) In any prosecution for a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section, evidence concerning the amount of alcohol in the defendant's blood or urine at the time of the alleged offense, as shown by a chemical analysis of the defendant's blood, breath or urine, otherwise admissible under subsection (a) of section 15-140r, shall be admissible only at the request of the defendant.

(f) No person shall operate a vessel or engage in any activity contrary to the regulations adopted by the commissioner.

(g) No person shall moor a vessel to, obstruct, remove, damage or destroy any navigation aid or any device used to mark a restricted area.

(h) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (d) of this section shall:

(1) For conviction of a first violation, (A) be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars, and (B) be (i) imprisoned not more than six months, forty-eight consecutive hours of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, or (ii) imprisoned not more than six months, with the execution of such sentence of imprisonment suspended entirely and a period of probation

imposed requiring as a condition of such probation that such person perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, and (C) (i) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation suspended for one year, and (ii) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act;

(2) **[**for**]** For conviction of a second violation not later than ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than one thousand dollars or more than four thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than two years, one hundred twenty consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, and (C) (i) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation suspended for three years or until the date of such person's twenty-first birthday, whichever is longer, and (ii) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act; and

(3) **[**for**]** For conviction of a third and subsequent violation not later than ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than two thousand dollars or more than eight thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than three years, one year of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, and (C) (i) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a

vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation permanently revoked upon such third offense, and (ii) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege permanently revoked in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act. For purposes of the imposition of penalties under subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection, a conviction under the provisions of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (d) of this section or subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227a shall constitute a prior conviction of the same offense.

(i) The suspension of a safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation imposed under subsection (h) of this section shall take effect immediately upon expiration of any period in which an appeal of any conviction under subsection (d) of this section may be taken, provided if an appeal is taken, the suspension shall be stayed during the pendency of such appeal. If the suspension or revocation takes effect, the defendant shall return, not later than the second business day after the suspension or revocation takes effect, by personal delivery or first class mail, the safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation issued to the defendant.

(j) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) or (g) of this section shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars and not more than five hundred dollars. Any person who violates any of the provisions of subsection (f) of this section shall have committed an infraction.

(k) (1) A record shall be kept by the Superior Court of any conviction relating to the operation of a vessel. A summary of such record, with a statement of the number of the operator's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation shall, not later than five days after such conviction, forfeiture or any other disposition or nolle, be transmitted to the commissioner by such court. Each court shall report

each conviction under subsection (d) of this section to the [commissioner. The commissioner] Commissioners of Energy and Environmental Protection and Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall suspend the safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation of the person reported as convicted for the period of time required by subsection (h) of this section. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege, if any, of the person reported as convicted in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h) of this section and for the period of time required by subsection (g) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act.

(2) The safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation of a person found guilty under subsection (d) of this section who is under eighteen years of age shall be suspended by the [commissioner] Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for the period of time set forth in subsection (h) of this section, or until such person attains the age of eighteen years, whichever period is longer.

Sec. 15. Subsections (g) and (h) of section 14-227a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(g) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section shall:

(1) For conviction of a first violation, (A) be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars, and (B) be (i) imprisoned not more than six months, forty-eight consecutive hours of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, or (ii) imprisoned not more than six months, with the execution of such sentence of imprisonment suspended entirely and a period of probation imposed requiring as a condition of such probation that such person perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license

or nonresident operating privilege suspended for forty-five days and, as a condition for the restoration of such license, be required to install an ignition interlock device on each motor vehicle owned or operated by such person and, upon such restoration, be prohibited for the one-year period following such restoration from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, and (ii) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation, suspended for the period of time specified in subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act;

(2) **[**for**]** For conviction of a second violation within ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than one thousand dollars or more than four thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than two years, one hundred twenty consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person: (i) Perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, (ii) submit to an assessment through the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch of the degree of such person's alcohol or drug abuse, and (iii) undergo a treatment program if so ordered, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for forty-five days and, as a condition for the restoration of such license, be required to install an ignition interlock device on each motor vehicle owned or operated by such person and, upon such restoration, be prohibited for the three-year period following such restoration from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, except that for the first year of such three-year period, such person's operation of a motor vehicle shall be limited to such person's transportation to or from work or school, an alcohol or drug abuse treatment program, an ignition interlock device service center or an appointment with a probation officer, and (ii) have such person's safe

boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation, suspended for the period of time specified in subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act; and

(3) **[**for**]** For conviction of a third and subsequent violation within ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than two thousand dollars or more than eight thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than three years, one year of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person: (i) Perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, (ii) submit to an assessment through the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch of the degree of such person's alcohol or drug abuse, and (iii) undergo a treatment program if so ordered, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege permanently revoked upon such third offense, except that if such person's revocation is reversed or reduced pursuant to subsection (i) of section 14-111, such person shall be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, for the time period prescribed in subdivision (2) of subsection (i) of section 14-111, and (ii) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation, permanently revoked in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (3) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act. For purposes of the imposition of penalties for a second or third and subsequent offense pursuant to this subsection, a conviction under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section in effect on October 1, 1981, or as amended thereafter, a conviction under the provisions of **[**either**]** subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, a conviction under the provisions of section 14-227m, as amended by this act, a conviction under the provisions of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, as amended by this act, a

conviction under the provisions of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (d) of section 15-133, as amended by this act, a conviction under the provisions of section 15-140*l* or 15-140n, a conviction under the provisions of section 53a-56b or 53a-60d or a conviction in any other state of any offense the essential elements of which are determined by the court to be substantially the same as subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, section 14-227m, as amended by this act, subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, as amended by this act, subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (d) of section 15-133, as amended by this act, or section 15-140*l* or 15-140n, 53a-56b or 53a-60d, shall constitute a prior conviction for the same offense.

(h) (1) Each court shall report each conviction under subsection (a) of this section to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-141, **[**. The commissioner**]** and to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of the person reported as convicted for the period of time required by subsection (g) of this section. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall suspend the safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operations, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation of the person reported as convicted in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this section for the period of time required pursuant to subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act. The **[**commissioner**]** Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall determine the period of time required by subsection (g) of this section for suspension of the motor vehicle's license or nonresident operating privilege based on the number of convictions such person has had within the specified time period according to such person's driving history record, notwithstanding the sentence imposed by the court for such conviction. (2) The motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of a person found guilty under subsection (a) of this section who, at the time of the offense, was operating a motor vehicle in accordance with a special operator's permit issued pursuant to section 14-37a shall be suspended by the

commissioner for twice the period of time set forth in subsection (g) of this section. (3) If an appeal of any conviction under subsection (a) of this section is taken, the suspension of the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege by the commissioner, in accordance with this subsection, shall be stayed during the pendency of such appeal.

Sec. 16. Subsection (i) of section 15-140q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(i) The commissioner shall suspend the operator's safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation of a person who does not contact the department to schedule a hearing under subsection (e) of this section, who fails to appear at such hearing, or against whom, after a hearing, the commissioner holds pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. Such suspension shall be as of the effective date contained in the suspension notice or the date the commissioner renders a decision, whichever is later, for a period of:

(1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, ninety days if such person submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that at the time of the alleged offense that such person had an elevated blood alcohol content, or such person was found to have been operating a vessel under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, based on a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, or (B) one hundred twenty days if such person submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person was sixteen-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, or (C) six months if such person refused to submit to such test;

(2) **[**if**]** If such person has previously had such person's safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation suspended under this section, (A) except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this

subdivision, nine months if such person submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that at the time of the alleged offense that such person had an elevated blood alcohol content, or such person was found to have been operating a vessel under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, based on a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, (B) ten months if such person submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person was sixteen-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and (C) one year if such person refused to submit to such test; and

(3) **[**if**]** If such person has two or more times previously had such person's safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation suspended under this section, (A) except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, two years if such person submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that at the time of the alleged offense that such person had an elevated blood alcohol content, or such person was found to have been operating a vessel under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, based on a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, (B) two and one-half years if such person submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person was sixteen-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and (C) three years if such person refused to submit to such test. For purposes of the suspension of the safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation of a person under subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection, the suspension under subsection (i) or (j) of section 14-227b, as amended by this act, of the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege, if any, of such person shall constitute a previous suspension under this section. Whenever the commissioner suspends the safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation of a person under this subsection, the commissioner shall mail or electronically transmit a copy

of the suspension notice, together with personal identifying information for such person, to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege, if any, of such person as specified in subsection (i) of section 14-227b, as amended by this act.

Sec. 17. Subsection (i) of section 14-227b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(i) (1) The commissioner shall suspend the operator's license or operating privilege of a person who did not contact the department to schedule a hearing, who failed to appear at a hearing, or against whom a decision was issued, after a hearing, pursuant to subsection (h) of this section, as of the effective date contained in the suspension notice, for a period of forty-five days. As a condition for the restoration of such operator's license or operating privilege, such person shall be required to install an ignition interlock device on each motor vehicle owned or operated by such person and, upon such restoration, be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, for the longer of either (A) the period prescribed in subdivision (2) of this subsection for the present arrest and suspension, or (B) the period prescribed in subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (g) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act, or subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (c) of section 14-227m, as amended by this act, or subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of section 14-227n, as amended by this act, for the present arrest and conviction, if any.

(2) (A) A person twenty-one years of age or older at the time of the arrest who submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that such person had an elevated blood alcohol content, or was found to have been operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both based on a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, shall install and maintain an ignition interlock device for the following periods: (i) For a first suspension

under this section, six months; (ii) for a second suspension under this section, one year; and (iii) for a third or subsequent suspension under this section, two years; (B) a person under twenty-one years of age at the time of the arrest who submitted to a test and the results of such test indicated that such person had an elevated blood alcohol content, or was found to have been operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both based on a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, shall install and maintain an ignition interlock device for the following periods: (i) For a first suspension under this section, one year; (ii) for a second suspension under this section, two years; and (iii) for a third or subsequent suspension under this section, three years; and (C) a person, regardless of age, who refused to submit to a test or nontestimonial portion of a drug influence evaluation shall install and maintain an ignition interlock device for the following periods: (i) For a first suspension under this section, one year; (ii) for a second suspension under this section, two years; and (iii) for a third or subsequent suspension, under this section, three years. For purposes of the suspension of the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) or (A)(iii) of this subsection, subparagraph (B)(ii) or (B)(iii) of this section or subparagraph (C)(ii) or (C)(iii) of this section, the suspension under subsection (i) of section 15-140q, as amended by this act, of the safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, of such person shall constitute a previous suspension of such person's operator's license or nonresident operating privilege under this subsection. Whenever the commissioner suspends the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of a person under this subsection, the commissioner shall mail or electronically transmit a copy of the suspension notice, together with personal identifying information for such person, to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection who shall suspend the safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, of such person as specified in subsection (i) of section 15-140q, as amended by

this act.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, a person whose motor vehicle operator's license or operating privilege has been permanently revoked upon a third offense pursuant to subsection (g) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act, or subsection (c) of section 14-227m, as amended by this act, shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in subdivision (2) of subsection (i) of section 14-111.

Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 15-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) No resident of the state, person owning real property in the state or person owning a vessel in the state shall operate on the waters of the state a vessel which is required to be registered or numbered pursuant to this chapter unless such person has a valid vessel operator license issued by the United States Coast Guard or has obtained a safe boating certificate issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. No owner of a vessel shall knowingly authorize or permit a person who is less than sixteen years of age who is required by this section to obtain a safe boating certificate issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to operate such vessel on the waters of the state without a safe boating certificate, unless such person is under the direct onboard supervision of a person who is at least eighteen years of age who has been issued a safe boating certificate and who has held such certificate for at least two years. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall not issue a safe boating certificate or temporary safe boating certificate to any person whose motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege is suspended or revoked, or is subject to any pending action by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles that may result in a suspension or revocation, due to a violation of section 14-227a, as amended by this act, 14-227g, 14-227m, as amended by this act, or 14-227n, as amended by this act. A safe boating certificate may be suspended or revoked,

pursuant to section 15-132a, 15-133, as amended by this act, 15-140*l* or 15-140n, and shall be valid for the life of the person to whom it is issued unless otherwise suspended or revoked. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person who, between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, operates a vessel propelled exclusively by an electric motor that is rated at one hundred six pounds of thrust or less on the inland waters of this state upon which motor powered vessels exceeding ten horsepower are prohibited.

Sec. 19. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(e) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued until (A) the applicant signs and submits to the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, an application under oath, or made subject to penalties for false statement in accordance with section 53a-157b, **[**and**]** (B) the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant is sixteen years of age or older and is a suitable person to receive the license, and (C) the applicant's safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, is not suspended or revoked, or is not subject to any pending action by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection that may result in a suspension or revocation, due to a violation of subsection (d) of section 15-133, as amended by this act, or section 15-140*l* or 15-140n.

Sec. 20. Section 14-227m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle in which a child under eighteen years of age is a passenger while such person (1) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (2) has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, except that if such person is operating a commercial motor

vehicle, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and if such person is under twenty-one years of age, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol by weight; and "motor vehicle" includes a snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle, as those terms are defined in section 14-379.

(b) The provisions of subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act, adapted accordingly, shall be applicable to a violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section shall:

(1) For conviction of a first violation, (A) be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than two thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than one year, thirty consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person: (i) Perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, (ii) submit to an assessment through the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch of the degree of such person's alcohol or drug abuse, (iii) undergo a treatment program, including chemical screening, if so ordered, (iv) submit to an interview and evaluation by the Department of Children and Families to assess any ongoing risk posed to any child who was a passenger in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation, and (v) cooperate with any programming, treatment, directives or plan if so ordered by the Department of Children and Families, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for forty-five days and, as a condition for the restoration of such license, be required to install an ignition interlock device on each motor vehicle owned or operated by such person and, upon such restoration, be prohibited for the one-year period following such restoration from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is

equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, and (ii) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation suspended for the period of time specified in subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act;

(2) **[**for**]** For conviction of a second violation of this section not later than ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than one thousand dollars or more than four thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than three years, one hundred eighty consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person: (i) Perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, (ii) submit to an assessment through the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch of the degree of such person's alcohol or drug abuse, (iii) undergo a treatment program, including chemical screening, if so ordered, (iv) submit to an interview and evaluation by the Department of Children and Families to assess any ongoing risk posed to any child who was a passenger in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation, and (v) cooperate with any programming, treatment, directives or plan if so ordered by the Department of Children and Families, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for forty-five days and, as a condition for the restoration of such license, be required to install an ignition interlock device on each motor vehicle owned or operated by such person and, upon such restoration, be prohibited for the three-year period following such restoration from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, except that for the first year of such three-year period, such person's operation of a motor vehicle shall be limited to such person's transportation to or from work or school, an alcohol or drug abuse treatment program, an ignition interlock device service center, a treatment program ordered by the Department of

Children and Families or an appointment with a probation officer or Department of Children and Families caseworker, and (ii) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation suspended for the period of time specified in subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act; and

(3) **[**for**]** For a third or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section not later than ten years after a prior conviction for the same offense, (A) be fined not less than two thousand dollars or more than eight thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not more than five years, two years of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person: (i) Perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, (ii) submit to an assessment through the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch of the degree of such person's alcohol or drug abuse, (iii) undergo a treatment program, including chemical screening, if so ordered, (iv) submit to an interview and evaluation by the Department of Children and Families to assess any ongoing risk posed to any child who was a passenger in the motor vehicle at the time of the offense, and (v) cooperate with any programming, treatment, directives or plan if so ordered by the Department of Children and Families, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege permanently revoked upon such third offense, except that if such person's revocation is reversed or reduced pursuant to subsection (i) of section 14-111, such person shall be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, for the time period prescribed in subdivision (2) of subsection (i) of section 14-111, and (ii) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation permanently revoked in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (3) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act. For purposes

of the imposition of penalties for a second or third and subsequent offense pursuant to this subsection, a conviction under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, subsection (a) of section 14-227a, subsection (a) of section 14-227g, subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, as amended by this act, subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (d) of section 15-133, as amended by this act, section 15-140*l* or 15-140n, subsection (a) of section 53a-56b or subsection (a) of section 53a-60d or a conviction in any other state of any offense, the essential elements of which are determined by the court to be substantially the same as the elements of the aforementioned provisions, shall constitute a prior conviction for the same offense.

Sec. 21. Section 14-227n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) No person shall operate a school bus, student transportation vehicle or other motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children while such person (A) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (B) has an elevated blood alcohol content.

(2) No person shall operate a school bus, student transportation vehicle or other motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children in which a child under eighteen years of age is a passenger while such person (A) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (B) has an elevated blood alcohol content.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children" means any motor vehicle, except for a registered school bus or student transportation vehicle as defined in section 14-212, that is designated or used by a person, firm or corporation for the transportation of children to or from any program or activity organized primarily for persons under the age of eighteen years, with or without charge to the individual being transported, but does not include a passenger motor vehicle normally used for personal, family or household purposes that is operated by a person without a public passenger endorsement; and "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-hundredths of

one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, except that if such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and if such person is under twenty-one years of age, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

(b) The provisions of subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) of section 14-227a, as amended by this act, adapted accordingly, shall be applicable to violations of subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) (1) Any person who violates subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall: (A) Be fined not more than ten thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not less than one year or more than ten years, thirty consecutive days of which shall not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person (i) perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, (ii) submit to an assessment through the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch of the degree of such person's alcohol or drug abuse, and (iii) undergo a treatment program, including chemical screening, if so ordered, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for forty-five days and, as a condition for the restoration of such license, be required to install an ignition interlock device on each motor vehicle owned or operated by such person and, upon such restoration, be prohibited for a three-year period following such restoration from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, except that for the first year of such three-year period, such person's operation of a motor vehicle shall be limited to such person's transportation to or from work or school, an alcohol or drug abuse treatment program, an ignition interlock device service center or an appointment with a probation officer, and (ii) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate

of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation suspended for the period of time specified in subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act.

(2) Any person who violates subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall: (A) Be fined not more than ten thousand dollars, (B) be imprisoned not less than one year or more than ten years, one hundred twenty consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and sentenced to a period of probation requiring as a condition of such probation that such person (i) perform one hundred hours of community service, as defined in section 14-227e, (ii) submit to an assessment through the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch of the degree of such person's alcohol or drug abuse, and (iii) undergo a treatment program, including chemical screening, if so ordered, and (C) (i) have such person's motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended for forty-five days and, as a condition for the restoration of such license, be required to install an ignition interlock device on each motor vehicle owned or operated by such person and, upon such restoration, be prohibited for a three-year period following such restoration from operating a motor vehicle unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a functioning, approved ignition interlock device, as defined in section 14-227j, except that for the first year of such three-year period, such person's operation of a motor vehicle shall be limited to such person's transportation to or from work or school, an alcohol or drug abuse treatment program, an ignition interlock device service center or an appointment with a probation officer, and (ii) have such person's safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation, if any, or right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation suspended for the period of time specified in subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 15-133, as amended by this act.

Sec. 22. Subsection (b) of section 15-144 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) (1) The owner shall pay a fee to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for deposit with the State Treasurer for each vessel so numbered or registered in accordance with the following schedule and subdivisions of this subsection:

	Overall Length			Overall Length		
	at least (feet)	less than (feet)	fee	at least (feet)	less than (feet)	fee
		12	$ 7.50	40	41	$270.00
	12	13	11.25	41	42	292.50
	13	14	15.00	42	43	315.00
	14	15	18.75	43	44	322.50
	15	16	22.50	44	45	330.00
	16	17	30.00	45	46	337.50
	17	18	37.50	46	47	345.00
	18	19	45.00	47	48	352.50
	19	20	52.50	48	49	360.00
	20	21	60.00	49	50	367.50
	21	22	67.50	50	51	375.00
	22	23	75.00	51	52	382.50
	23	24	82.50	52	53	390.00
	24	25	90.00	53	54	397.50
	25	26	97.50	54	55	405.00
	26	27	105.00	55	56	412.50
	27	28	112.50	56	57	420.00
	28	29	120.00	57	58	427.50
	29	30	127.50	58	59	435.00
	30	31	135.00	59	60	442.50
	31	32	142.50	60	61	450.00
	32	33	150.00	61	62	457.50
	33	34	157.50	62	63	465.00
	34	35	165.00	63	64	472.50
	35	36	172.50	64	65	480.00
	36	37	180.00	65 and over		525.00
	37	38	202.50			

T31	38	39	225.00
T32	39	40	247.50

(2) For purposes of **[**this**]** the schedule provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, "overall length" is the horizontal distance between the foremost part of the stem and the aftermost part of the stern, excluding bowsprits, bumpkins, rudders, outboard motor brackets and similar fittings or attachments. **[**(2)**]** (3) The fee payable under this subsection with respect to any vessel used primarily for purposes of commercial fishing shall not exceed twenty-five dollars, provided in the tax year of the owner of such vessel ending immediately preceding the date of registration, not less than fifty per cent of the adjusted gross income of such owner as determined for purposes of the federal income tax is derived from commercial fishing, subject to proof satisfactory to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. **[**(3)**]** (4) The fee payable under this subsection with respect to any vessel constructed primarily of wood, the construction of which is completed not less than fifteen years prior to the date such fee is paid, shall be in an amount equal to fifty per cent of the fee otherwise payable, or if such construction is completed not less than twenty-five years prior to the date such fee is paid, such fee shall be in an amount equal to twenty-five per cent of the fee otherwise payable. **[**(4)**]** (5) Fees payable under this subsection shall not be required with respect to (A) any vessel owned by a flotilla of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or owned by a nonprofit corporation acting on behalf of such a flotilla, provided no more than two vessels from any such flotilla or nonprofit corporation shall be granted such an exemption, and (B) any vessel built by students in an educational institution and used for the purposes of such institution, including such research as may require the use of such vessel. **[**(5) The fee payable under this subsection with respect to any pontoon boat, exclusive of any houseboat, shall be forty dollars.**]** (6) The fee payable under this subsection with respect to any canoe with a motor or any vessel owned by a nonprofit organization shall be seven dollars and fifty cents. (7) The fee payable under this subsection with respect to any vessel less than fifteen feet in length equipped with a motor the horsepower of which is

less than fifteen, shall be seven dollars and fifty cents. (8) The owner of any vessel used actively, as required under this subdivision, in operational activities of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary shall not be required to pay the applicable fee in accordance with the schedule in this subsection, provided (A) if the applicable fee under the schedule for such vessel is greater than one hundred eighty dollars, the owner shall be required to pay the amount of fee in excess of one hundred eighty dollars, and (B) the owner shall not be entitled to exemption from the applicable fee as allowed in this subdivision for any vessel registration year unless the application for registration of such vessel includes a statement, certified by an officer of the United States Coast Guard, that in the preceding year such vessel was used actively in not less than three separate operational activities of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. (9) Beginning May 4, 2011, all revenue received by the state in fees for the numbering and registration of vessels under this section shall be deposited with the Treasurer who shall deposit such revenue in the General Fund.

Sec. 23. Subsection (a) of section 14-15d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) Each electronic issuance licensee, licensed pursuant to section 14-15e, as amended by this act, shall, not later than ten days after the electronic issuance of a certificate of registration or certificate of title, submit to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles an application together with all necessary documents required to obtain a certificate of registration or certificate **[**or**]** of title for the vehicle with the Department of Motor Vehicles. If such licensee fails to provide the department with such necessary documents, the department shall not process the application and shall inform such licensee of the failure to submit a completed application.

Sec. 24. Section 14-15f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

On and after January 1, 2025, each person, firm or corporation that

the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles permitted or required prior to October 1, 2024, to file applications for the issuance of a certificate of registration or a certificate of title electronically with the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 14-15d of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, **[**2024**]** 2023, or any regulation adopted thereunder, shall no longer be permitted to use the department's electronic system for filing applications for the issuance of a certificate of registration or a certificate of title unless such person, firm or corporation holds an electronic issuance license issued pursuant to section 14-15e, as amended by this act.

Sec. 25. Section 14-44p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

On and after October 1, 2024, each commercial driver's instruction permit issued by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles prior to October 1, 2024, that is otherwise valid, shall remain valid, according to its terms, and shall authorize each license holder to drive a commercial motor vehicle when accompanied in such vehicle by the holder of a commercial driver's license in accordance with the provisions of section 14-44e of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes, **[**revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2024,**]** until the expiration of the commercial driver's instruction permit.

Sec. 26. Subsection (b) of section 14-253c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(b) The advisory council shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services or the commissioner's designee, (3) two members appointed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who are licensed physicians, physician assistants or advanced practice registered nurses who certify applications for removable windshield placards while in the course of employment, (4) one member appointed by the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services who represents an organization that advocates on behalf of persons with physical

disabilities, (5) one appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, (6) one appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who uses accessible parking or advocates on behalf of such users, (7) one appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who uses accessible parking or advocates on behalf of such users, (8) one appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, who is a sworn member of a municipal police department, and (9) **[**and**]** such other members as the advisory council may prescribe. All initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made not later than September 1, 2023. Each member appointed pursuant to subdivisions (3) to (9), inclusive, of this subsection shall serve for a term of two years and may serve until such member's successor is appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or the commissioner's designee, shall serve as chairperson of the advisory council. The advisory council shall meet at such times as it deems necessary and may establish rules governing its internal procedures.

Sec. 27. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 14-279c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(2) In the case of an alleged violation involving a motor vehicle registered in the state, the municipality, or its designated agent, shall send a copy of a citation to the owner of the motor vehicle observed in the alleged violation not later <u>than</u> thirty days after the date of the alleged violation. In the case of an alleged violation involving a motor vehicle registered in another jurisdiction, the municipality, or its designated agent, shall send a copy of a citation to the address of the owner that is in the records of the official in the other jurisdiction issuing

such registration not later than sixty days after the alleged violation.

Sec. 28. Subsection (g) of section 14-41 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(g) The commissioner shall develop, and thereafter revise as needed, a video presentation concerning current state laws that impact motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists and ways to practice safe driving behaviors and reduce transportation-related fatalities and severe injuries. In developing such video presentation, the commissioner may use materials and one or more video presentations developed by a governmental entity, independent contractor or any other party. Upon every **[**other**]** renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license, the commissioner shall require the licensee to watch such video presentation prior to issuing such license.

Sec. 29. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant has held a youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) submit to the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a certificate of the successful completion (i) in a public secondary school, a technical education and career school or a private secondary school of a full course of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided in section 14-36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided by a licensed drivers' school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each case, or by a combination of such types of training, successful completion of: Not less than forty clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) submit to the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a certificate of the

successful completion of a course of not less than eight hours relative to safe driving practices, including a minimum of four hours on the nature and the medical, biological and physiological effects of alcohol and drugs, including cannabis, as defined in section 21a-420, and their impact on the operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse, the penalties for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations and a video presentation specific to the impact of cannabis on the operator of a motor vehicle and how the ingestion of cannabis can cause impairment of motor function, reaction time, perception and peripheral vision; and (C) pass an examination which may include a comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road in addition to the test required under subsection (c) of this section and shall include an on-the-road skills test as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of application and examination for a motor vehicle operator's license, an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age shall have held a youth instruction permit for not less than one hundred eighty days, except that an applicant who presents a certificate under subparagraph (A)(i) or subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall have held a youth instruction permit for not less than one hundred twenty days and an applicant who is undergoing training and instruction by the driver training unit for persons with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of section 14-11b shall have held such permit for the period of time required by said unit. The commissioner shall approve the content of the safe driving instruction at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools. Subject to such standards and requirements as the commissioner may impose, the commissioner may authorize any drivers' school, licensed in good standing in accordance with the provisions of section 14-69, or secondary school driver education program authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 14-36e, to administer the comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road, required pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, as part of the safe driving practices course required pursuant to subparagraph

(B) of this subdivision, and to certify to the commissioner, under oath, the results of each such test administered. Such hours of instruction required by this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition to any existing instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course required under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not exceed **[**one hundred fifty**]** two hundred dollars. Any applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who, while a resident of another state, completed the course required in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but did not complete the safe driving practices course required in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, shall complete the safe driving practices course. The commissioner may waive any requirement in this subdivision, except for **[**that in**]** the requirements of subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, in the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who holds a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any other state, provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has received training and instruction of a similar nature.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*January 1, 2026*	14-15e
Sec. 2	*January 1, 2026*	14-52a(a)
Sec. 3	*July 1, 2025*	14-36d(b)
Sec. 4	*January 1, 2026*	14-36j(a)
Sec. 5	*October 1, 2025*	14-44c(d)
Sec. 6	*October 1, 2025*	14-44e(b)
Sec. 7	*July 1, 2025*	14-58(a)
Sec. 8	*July 1, 2025*	14-64
Sec. 9	*July 1, 2025*	14-67i(a)
Sec. 10	*July 1, 2025*	14-67*l*
Sec. 11	*October 1, 2025*	14-73
Sec. 12	*July 1, 2025*	14-51
Sec. 13	*July 1, 2025*	14-166
Sec. 14	*October 1, 2025*	15-133
Sec. 15	*October 1, 2025*	14-227a(g) and (h)
Sec. 16	*October 1, 2025*	15-140q(i)
Sec. 17	*October 1, 2025*	14-227b(i)
Sec. 18	*October 1, 2025*	15-140e(a)
Sec. 19	*October 1, 2025*	14-36(e)(1)

Sec. 20	*October 1, 2025*	14-227m
Sec. 21	*October 1, 2025*	14-227n
Sec. 22	*July 1, 2025*	15-144(b)
Sec. 23	*July 1, 2025*	14-15d(a)
Sec. 24	*July 1, 2025*	14-15f
Sec. 25	*July 1, 2025*	14-44p
Sec. 26	*July 1, 2025*	14-253c(b)
Sec. 27	*July 1, 2025*	14-279c(d)(2)
Sec. 28	*July 1, 2025*	14-41(g)
Sec. 29	*July 1, 2025*	14-36(d)(1)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 13(b), "section 14-146" was changed to "section 14-176" for accuracy; in Section 14(h)(1), "subparagraph (C)(ii)" was changed to "subparagraph (C)(i)" for accuracy; in Section 14(k), "in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h) of this section and" was inserted before "for the period of time" for clarity; in Section 15(h)(1), "in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this section and" was inserted before "for the period of time" for clarity; and in Section 29, "practices" was inserted before "course" for consistency.

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 26 $	FY 27 $
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account - Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	Approximately 40,000 to 50,000	Approximately 40,000 to 50,000
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	84,624	84,624
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits[1]	GF - Cost	28,344	28,344

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Various Municipal Police Departments	Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

Sections 1 and 2 potentially expand the number of people subject to

[1]The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

state criminal history records checks, resulting in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund,[2] the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP),[3] and municipal police departments,[4] beginning in FY 26.

Section 10 imposes a fee of $100 for late motor vehicle recycler's license renewal applications, resulting in minimal revenue gain to the STF from fees.

Section 22 replaces the $40 pontoon boat registration fee with the existing length-based registration fee that applies to other boats. Precise lengths of registered pontoon boats are unknown; however, based on Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) registration data and approximate length data from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), this section is expected to result in a revenue gain of approximately $40,000 to $50,000 annually to the General Fund. Pontoon boat registration fees are collected by DMV but deposited to a DEEP account within the General Fund.

Reciprocal License Suspensions

Sections 14 through 21 impose reciprocal penalties for impaired driving and boating. Specifically, these sections require DMV and DEEP to notify each other of administrative actions on impaired driving and boating, for the courts to notify both agencies of criminal convictions, and to prohibit DMV or DEEP from issuing a driver's license or boating certificate to anyone whose license or certificate is suspended for an impaired driving or boating incident.

[2] DESPP conducts state criminal history records checks for a fee of $75. The revenue that is collected from this fee is deposited into the General Fund.
[3] DESPP conducts fingerprinting for a fee of $15 fee per person paid to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account, non-lapsing account used for IT support and maintenance for the fingerprinting systems.
[4] Municipal police departments may also conduct the required fingerprinting for state criminal history records checks and typically charge a fee of $10 to $15.

These requirements result in an additional annual cost to DEEP of approximately $112,968. The agency would require one additional full time Conservation Enforcement Officer to address reciprocal boating license suspensions under the bill. Annual costs include $69,624 in salary, $15,000 in other expenses and corresponding fringe benefits of $28,344. For context, in FY 24 DMV suspended approximately 4,000 licenses for impaired driving administratively and approximately 2,500 through a court conviction, which DEEP would need to consider.

For DMV, it is expected that the agency could accommodate this requirement within existing operations. DEEP typically suspends fewer than 10 certificates per year for impaired boating.

Additionally, these reciprocal penalties take into consideration what counts as a prior conviction for driving and boating under the influence, which results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines.[5] On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is $3,300[6] while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than $600[7] each year for adults and $450 each year for juveniles.

The remaining sections of the bill are technical, conforming, or otherwise not expected to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

[5]. In FY 24, there were 8,666 charges and $717,264 in associated revenue collected under these statutes. There are currently about 200 people incarcerated for driving under the influence. No individuals and currently incarcerated under the boating under the influence statutes.

[6] Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

[7] 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.

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of state criminal history checks conducted, the number of violations, or as otherwise described.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7160

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE AND VESSEL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR OR ANY DRUG, PONTOON BOATS, TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES, VIDEO PRESENTATION UPON LICENSE RENEWAL AND THE SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES COURSE.

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More specifically defines which individuals' civil and criminal history must be considered in licensing decisions when an applicant for certain DMV-issued business licenses (i.e. electronic issuance, dealer, repairer, and motor vehicle recycler) is a business entity

§ 1 — ELECTRONIC ISSUANCE LICENSES

Explicitly prohibits DMV from issuing an electronic issuance license to dealers, repairers, motor vehicle leasing or rental companies, or department contractors

§ 3 — DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL WITHOUT PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Makes minor changes to the law permitting renewal of a driver's license without the holder's personal appearance

§§ 4 & 29 — EIGHT-HOUR SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Increases the maximum fee for the eight-hour safe driving course from $150 to $200 and requires any course provided through distance learning to require participants to use a camera

§§ 5 & 6 — COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE DISQUALIFICATION

Requires DMV to disqualify someone from holding a CDL or CLP for being out of compliance with medical certificate or drug and alcohol

requirements; explicitly allows DMV to restore the CDL or CLP if the person fulfills applicable reinstatement procedures and pays the license restoration fee

§§ 7, 8 & 12 — DEALERS AND REPAIRERS

Modifies the standard for determining when a dealer or repairer can expand an existing licensed location on adjacent property without getting another license; increases the dealer and repairer record retention period; and exempts businesses who sell only low-speed vehicles (LSVs) from the dealer and repairer licensure requirements

§§ 9 & 10 — MOTOR VEHICLE RECYCLERS

Requires motor vehicle recyclers to stop operating if their license expires, imposes a late fee for late renewal applications, and prohibits DMV from renewing a license that has been expired for more than 45 days

§§ 11 & 23-27 — TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES

Makes several technical and conforming changes to the motor vehicle statutes

§ 13 — TITLING OLDER VEHICLES

Prohibits DMV from requiring a surety bond as a condition of issuing a title to vehicles older than 20 model years old

§§ 14-21 — RECIPROCAL SUSPENSION PENALTIES FOR DRIVING AND BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Imposes reciprocal credential suspension penalties for convictions of driving under the influence (DUI) and boating under the influence (BUI) and related administrative per se violations

§ 22 — PONTOON BOAT REGISTRATION FEE

Eliminates the $40 flat registration fee that currently applies to pontoon boats and instead applies the existing length-based registration fee that applies to other kinds of boats

§ 28 — VIDEO ON TRAFFIC SAFETY LAWS AT LICENSE RENEWAL

Increases the frequency with which driver's license holders must watch a traffic safety video to every renewal, rather than every other renewal

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes to laws pertaining to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), DMV-licensed businesses, driver's license

renewal, commercial driver's licenses (CDLs), boat registration, and penalties for impaired driving and boating, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§§ 1, 2, & 10 — BUSINESS ENTITY APPLICATIONS FOR CERTAIN FOR BUSINESS LICENSES

More specifically defines which individuals' civil and criminal history must be considered in licensing decisions when an applicant for certain DMV-issued business licenses (i.e. electronic issuance, dealer, repairer, and motor vehicle recycler) is a business entity

By law, an applicant for a car dealer, repairer, motor vehicle recycler, or electronic issuance license may be denied a new or renewal license based on being convicted of, or found civilly liable for, certain crimes or violations. If the license applicant is a business entity, the license may be denied based on the history of certain individuals who own or control the business.

The bill more specifically defines which individuals' civil and criminal history must be considered in licensing decisions. Under current law, it applies to officers and major stockholders. The bill instead applies these provisions to directors, officers, partners, owners, or other individuals who exercise substantial control over the business entity applying for the license or who have more than a 25% ownership interest in it.

For dealer, repairer, and electronic issuance applicants, the bill extends current law's requirement that these individuals be fingerprinted and undergo a background check. (In practice, DMV also requires motor vehicle recycler license applicants to be fingerprinted and undergo a background check.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026, except that the provisions applicable to motor vehicle recyclers are effective July 1, 2025.

§ 1 — ELECTRONIC ISSUANCE LICENSES

Explicitly prohibits DMV from issuing an electronic issuance license to dealers, repairers, motor vehicle leasing or rental companies, or department contractors

Existing law prohibits anyone from engaging in the business of electronically filing registration or title applications without an electronic issuance license issued by DMV.

The bill prohibits DMV from issuing an electronic issuance license to licensed car dealers, repairers, leasing and rental companies, and contractors authorized to handle DMV transactions. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows these entities to use the department's electronic system to register vehicles or issue titles without getting an electronic issuance license.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

§ 3 — DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL WITHOUT PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Makes minor changes to the law permitting renewal of a driver's license without the holder's personal appearance

Existing law allows the DMV commissioner to renew someone's driver's license without his or her personal appearance under several specified conditions. Under current law, one condition is that the person must have personally appeared to renew his or her license within the time limitations set in state or federal law. The bill changes this requirement to refer specifically to the timeframe established in the federal Real ID regulations (i.e. within 16 years). It also explicitly allows the commissioner to require appearance within a shorter period of time, at his discretion.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 4 & 29 — EIGHT-HOUR SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Increases the maximum fee for the eight-hour safe driving course from $150 to $200 and requires any course provided through distance learning to require participants to use a camera

By law, youth and adult instruction permit holders must take an eight-hour course on safe driving practices before getting their driver's license. Under existing law, this course can be offered in-person in a

group setting, through distance learning, or a hybrid of both, and any course provided fully or partially through distance learning must be taught in real time by a live instructor and have interactive components. The bill additionally requires that participants in any distance learning component be required to use a camera.

The bill also increases, from $150 to $200, the maximum fee that driving schools and high schools may charge for the eight-hour course.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, for the fee increase and January 1, 2026, for the camera requirement.

§§ 5 & 6 — COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE DISQUALIFICATION

Requires DMV to disqualify someone from holding a CDL or CLP for being out of compliance with medical certificate or drug and alcohol requirements; explicitly allows DMV to restore the CDL or CLP if the person fulfills applicable reinstatement procedures and pays the license restoration fee

Under federal motor carrier regulations and state law, commercial driver's license (CDL) and commercial learner's permit (CLP) holders are required to complete certain drug and alcohol testing and get a medical certificate every 24 months (or a shorter period, if directed by the medical examiner) indicating their fitness to drive.

Current law requires DMV to downgrade a CDL to a Class D driver's license or cancel a CLP within 60 days after (1) receiving notification through the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (see *Background — Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse*) that a CDL or CLP holder is prohibited from operating a commercial vehicle or (2) the holder's medical certificate expires. The bill instead requires DMV to disqualify the person from holding a CDL or CLP. It also explicitly allows DMV to restore the CDL or CLP if the (1) person fulfills applicable reinstatement procedures and pays the license restoration fee and (2) clearinghouse changes the person's status from prohibited to not prohibited (for those disqualified due to clearinghouse notifications).

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, affected CDL and CLP holders have the right to a hearing with DMV under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

Background — Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

The Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse is an online database maintained by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that gives employers and government agencies access to information about CDL and CLP holders' drug and alcohol program violations (e.g., positive drug or alcohol test results and test refusals).

§§ 7, 8 & 12 — DEALERS AND REPAIRERS

Modifies the standard for determining when a dealer or repairer can expand an existing licensed location on adjacent property without getting another license; increases the dealer and repairer record retention period; and exempts businesses who sell only low-speed vehicles (LSVs) from the dealer and repairer licensure requirements

Licensees Adding Adjacent Land

Existing law generally requires car dealers and repairers to get a separate license from DMV for each place of business they operate, but it makes an exception to this requirement for dealers and repairers that expand a licensed location by adding buildings or certain land.

Under current law, this exception applies when a dealer or repairer adds adjacent land to its place of business. Under the bill, this exemption instead applies only when a dealer adds land directly bordering or sharing a common boundary with the licensed location without any intervening highway or private roadway. Existing law allows the DMV commissioner to require licensees that add buildings or land to their business to show evidence that they comply with municipal zoning requirements, among other things.

Records Retention

By law, dealers and repairers must retain records of purchase, sale, and repair transactions pertaining to motor vehicles or major component parts. The bill extends the law's required retention period from two to three years after the transaction. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, DMV may suspend or revoke a dealer or repairer's license or impose a civil penalty of up to $1,000 for failing to comply with this requirement.

Low-Speed Vehicles

The bill exempts LSVs from the definition of "motor vehicle" for the purpose of the car dealer and repairer licensing statutes. In doing so, it exempts businesses that sell or repair only LSVs from the dealer licensure requirement.

PA 24-20 (§§ 33-35) made LSVs "motor vehicles" under the state motor vehicle laws. Among other things, this imposed existing law's car dealer licensing requirements on businesses selling LSVs.

Under state law and federal regulations, an LSV is a four-wheeled motor vehicle that has a (1) speed attainable in one mile of more than 20 miles per hour (mph) but not more than 25 mph on a paved, level surface and (2) gross vehicle weight rating less than 3,000 pounds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 9 & 10 — MOTOR VEHICLE RECYCLERS

Requires motor vehicle recyclers to stop operating if their license expires, imposes a late fee for late renewal applications, and prohibits DMV from renewing a license that has been expired for more than 45 days

By law, motor vehicle recyclers must biennially renew their license. If a recycler's license expires before its renewal is approved by DMV, the bill specifies that a recycler must stop operating until DMV receives its renewal application, fee, and surety bond and approves its renewal application.

The bill imposes a $100 late fee on renewal applications that are submitted after the license's expiration date. It also prohibits DMV from renewing a recycler's license that has been expired for more than 45 days but allows a recycler whose license can no longer be renewed to apply for a new license.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 11 & 23-27 — TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES

Makes several technical and conforming changes to the motor vehicle statutes

The bill makes several technical and conforming changes to the motor

vehicle statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except § 11, which is effective October 1, 2025.

§ 13 — TITLING OLDER VEHICLES

Prohibits DMV from requiring a surety bond as a condition of issuing a title to vehicles older than 20 model years old

By law, a certificate of title is not required for motor vehicles older than 20 model years old. But the law requires DMV to issue a title to these vehicles at an owner's request.

The bill prohibits DMV from requiring a surety bond as a condition of issuing a title to vehicles older than 20 model years old. DMV regulations currently require owners of vehicles to apply for a title for a vehicle manufactured prior to 1981 to either (1) surrender a valid out-of-state title certificate or (2) post a surety bond in an amount equal to twice the vehicle's value, as determined by DMV (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-166-1(b)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 14-21 — RECIPROCAL SUSPENSION PENALTIES FOR DRIVING AND BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Imposes reciprocal credential suspension penalties for convictions of driving under the influence (DUI) and boating under the influence (BUI) and related administrative per se violations

The bill imposes reciprocal driver's license, boating certificate, and personal watercraft certificate suspension penalties for convictions of driving under the influence (DUI) and boating under the influence (BUI) and related administrative per se violations.

Under the administrative per se laws, drivers or boaters may have their credentials suspended for the following reasons, separately from the criminal process: (1) having a blood alcohol content (BAC) in excess of the applicable per se limit (generally, 0.08%); (2) being found, based on a police officer's investigation, to have been driving or boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and (3) refusing a chemical test (e.g., a

breath test) or the nontestimonial portion of a drug influence evaluation (or DIE, which is an evaluation conducted by a specially trained police officer to determine a person's impairment from using drugs).

Penalties

The table below shows the penalties that apply under the bill for each offense. Generally, the bill applies the credential suspension penalties for one offense to the equivalent offense in the other law (e.g., a second DUI offense also subjects a person to the certificate suspension that applies for a second BUI offense). For driver's license suspensions, a required period of ignition interlock device (IID) use applies as a condition of license restoration, regardless of whether the offense triggering the suspension was committed in a motor vehicle or a boat.

Under the bill, offenders are subject to a suspension penalty for all three credentials, regardless of whether they currently hold them. If an offender does not have one of the credentials, the suspension applies to a person's operating privilege or right to operate a vessel (effectively, this means the person cannot get the credential for the length of the suspension).

Table: Certificate and License Suspension Penalties Under the Bill

Offense (§)		*Driver's License*	*Boating or Personal Watercraft Certificate*
BUI (§ 14), DUI (§ 15), or DUI with a child passenger (§ 20)	First	45 day suspension, plus one year IID use	One year suspension
	Second	45 day suspension plus three years IID use, with operation in the first year limited to certain travel (e.g., to work or school)	Three year suspension (or until age 21, whichever is longer)
	Third and subsequent	Permanent revocation*	Permanent revocation
Administrative Per Se for BUI (§ 16) or DUI (§ 17)	First	Age 21 and over: 45 days, plus 6 months IID use Under age 21: 45 days, plus 1 year IID use Test/DIE Refusal: 45 days,	General: 90 days BAC of 0.16 or more: 120 days Test/DIE Refusal: 6 months

Offense (§)		*Driver's License*	*Boating or Personal Watercraft Certificate*
		plus 1 year IID use	
	Second	Age 21 and over: 45 days, plus 1 year IID use Under age 21: 45 days, plus 2 year IID use Test/DIE Refusal: 45 days, plus 2 year IID use	General: 9 months BAC of 0.16 or more: 10 months Test Refusal/DIE: 1 year
	Third and subsequent	Age 21 and over: 45 days, plus 2 years IID use Under age 21: 45 days, plus 3 years IID use Test/DIE Refusal: 45 days, plus 3 years IID use	General: 2 years BAC of 0.16 or more: 2 years, 6 months Test/DIE Refusal: 3 years
DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children (§ 21)	All	45 day suspension plus three years IID use, with operation in the first year limited to certain travel (e.g., to work or school)	One year suspension

*The offender is eligible for reinstatement after two years. If reinstated, he or she must drive with an IID unless the DMV commissioner lifts this requirement after 15 years.

The bill also deems equivalent boating and driving offenses as prior convictions under the bill, as shown in the table below.

Table: Offenses Considered Prior Convictions, Current Law vs. Bill

Offense (§)	*Considered a Prior Conviction of the Offense Under Current Law*	*Considered a Prior Conviction of the Offense Under the Bill*
BUI (§ 14)	BUI	BUI and DUI
DUI (§ 15)	DUI, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses	DUI, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, BUI, reckless operation of a vessel while under the influence, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses
Administrative	BUI administrative per se	BUI and DUI administrative per se

Per Se, BUI (§ 16)		
Administrative Per Se, DUI (§ 17)	DUI administrative per se	BUI and DUI administrative per se
DUI with a child passenger (§ 20)	DUI, DUI under age 21, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses	DUI, DUI under age 21, DUI with a child passenger, DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children, 2nd degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle, 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle, BUI, reckless operation of a vessel while under the influence, or an offense committed in another state that is equivalent to any of these offenses

Administration

Under the bill, the court must report each DUI and BUI conviction to DMV and the Department of Enery and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and the commissioners must suspend the offender's driver's license and boating or personal watercraft as the bill requires.

The bill also requires the DMV and DEEP commissioners to notify each other when they suspend a person's driver's license or certificate, and the commissioner receiving the notice must suspend the applicable credential.

Credential Issuance (§§ 18 & 19)

The bill prohibits DMV from issuing a driver's license to anyone whose boating or personal watercraft certificate is suspended or revoked or subject to pending action by DEEP that may result in suspension or revocation due to DUI or reckless operation of a vessel. It also prohibits DEEP from issuing a boating certificate to anyone whose driver's license is suspended or revoked, or subject to pending action at DMV that may result in suspension or revocation due to DUI, DUI under age 21, DUI with a child passenger, or DUI in a school bus or other vehicle designated for carrying children. (The bill does not require DMV or DEEP to notify the other about a pending action within their jurisdiction.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

§ 22 — PONTOON BOAT REGISTRATION FEE

Eliminates the $40 flat registration fee that currently applies to pontoon boats and instead applies the existing length-based registration fee that applies to other kinds of boats

By law, all boats must be registered with DMV, and the registration must be renewed annually. The annual registration fee for most boats is based on the boat's length and ranges from $7.50 for boats under 12 feet to $525 for boats 65 feet or over. However, under current law, pontoon boats (other than houseboats) must pay a flat registration fee of $40.

The bill eliminates this flat fee, instead subjecting pontoon boats to the length-based fee. The table below lists the length-based boat registration fee for boats up to 35 feet long. (Most registered pontoon boats fall within the 16 to 26 foot range.)

Table: Annual Registration Fee for Boats Under 35 Feet Long

Overall Length		*Fee ($)*	*Overall Length*		*Fee ($)*
At Least	*Less Than*		*At Least*	*Less Than*	
—	12	7.50	23	24	82.50
12	13	11.25	24	25	90.00
13	14	15.00	25	26	97.50
14	15	18.75	26	27	105.00
15	16	22.50	27	28	112.50
16	17	30.00	28	29	120.00
17	18	37.50	29	30	127.50
18	19	45.00	30	31	135.00
19	20	52.50	31	32	142.50
20	21	60.00	32	33	150.00
21	22	67.50	33	34	157.50
22	23	75.00	34	35	165.00

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§ 28 — VIDEO ON TRAFFIC SAFETY LAWS AT LICENSE RENEWAL

Increases the frequency with which driver's license holders must watch a traffic safety video to every renewal, rather than every other renewal

By law, the DMV commissioner must develop and revise a video about state laws impacting drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, as well

as ways to drive safely and reduce transportation-related fatalities and severe injuries. Current law requires the commissioner to require people to watch the video every other renewal. The bill instead requires that driver's license holders watch the video each time they renew their license. (Generally, a driver's license must be renewed every eight years.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 33 Nay 2 (03/19/2025)