



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 558

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7060

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 CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION WORKER SAFETY.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Connecticut Special Service Road 495
2 from Miller Avenue southerly to the southbound Connecticut Route 15
3 access ramp in the city of Meriden shall be designated the "Andrew
4 DiDomenico Memorial Highway".

5 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Bridge No. 01241 carrying Jude Lane
6 over Interstate Route 84 eastbound and westbound in the town of
7 Southington shall be designated the "State Trooper First Class Aaron M.
8 Pelletier Memorial Bridge".

9 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
10 section:

11 (1) "Highway work zone" and "highway worker" have the same
12 meanings as provided in section 14-212d of the general statutes, as

13 amended by this act;

14 (2) "Emergency vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in section
15 14-283 of the general statutes;

16 (3) "Drivers' school" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-
17 68 of the general statutes; and

18 (4) "Moving violation" and "suspension violation" have the same
19 meanings as provided in section 14-111g of the general statutes.

20 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall require the attendance
21 and successful completion of a highway work zone and roadside vehicle
22 safety awareness program by (1) any applicant for a motor vehicle
23 operator's license or instruction permit issued under section 14-36 of the
24 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) any motor vehicle
25 operator who has been convicted of a violation of section 14-283b of the
26 general statutes, as amended by this act, or 14-212d of the general
27 statutes, as amended by this act.

28 (c) The highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness
29 program shall, at a minimum, (1) review principles of safe motor vehicle
30 operation, (2) highlight the dangers of highway work zones, (3)
31 emphasize risks associated with unsafe driving in a highway work zone,
32 (4) include testimonials from highway workers and the families of
33 highway workers, (5) emphasize the dangers posed by vehicles that are
34 located on the shoulder of a highway, (6) review proper interactions
35 with emergency vehicles, and (7) conclude with a test in a written or
36 electronic format.

37 (d) Such program shall be offered by the Department of Motor
38 Vehicles, or by any other organization certified by the commissioner to
39 conduct such program in person in a congregate setting, through
40 distance learning or through a combination of both in-person and
41 distance learning, provided such distance learning has interactive
42 components such as mandatory interactions, participation or testing.
43 Any drivers' school that meets the licensure requirement of part IV of

44 chapter 246 of the general statutes shall be eligible to seek certification
45 to offer the highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness
46 program. The commissioner shall determine the number of program
47 providers necessary to serve the needs of the public.

48 (e) (1) Each organization or drivers' school seeking certification or
49 recertification to conduct such program shall submit an application to
50 the department in such form as the commissioner shall require and an
51 application fee of three hundred fifty dollars. Each such applicant shall:

52 (A) Be registered to do business in this state and continuously
53 maintain good standing with the office of the Secretary of the State;

54 (B) File and continuously maintain a surety bond in the amount of
55 fifty thousand dollars. Such bond shall be conditioned upon compliance
56 with the provisions of any state or federal law or regulation concerning
57 the conduct of a highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety
58 awareness program and provided as indemnity for any loss or expense
59 sustained by either the state or any person by reason of any acts or
60 omissions of the program provider. Such bond shall be executed in the
61 name of the State of Connecticut for the benefit of any aggrieved party,
62 but the penalty of the bond shall not be invoked except upon order of
63 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles after a hearing held before the
64 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
65 general statutes;

66 (C) Have a permanent place of business in this state where all records
67 pertaining to such program shall be maintained and accessible to the
68 commissioner during normal business hours;

69 (D) Submit for approval by the commissioner a detailed curriculum
70 and lesson plan, including any changes to such curriculum and lesson
71 plan, which shall be used in each program; and

72 (E) Electronically transmit information concerning enrollment and
73 program completion to the commissioner at such times and in such form
74 as the commissioner shall prescribe.

75 (2) Prior to the certification of an applicant, the commissioner shall
76 investigate the applicant's character, driving history and criminal
77 history. If the applicant is a business entity, such investigation shall
78 include the principals and officers of such entity. The applicant shall
79 submit to the commissioner any information pertaining to current or
80 past criminal or civil actions. The certification of a program provider by
81 the commissioner shall not be transferable and shall be valid for a two-
82 year period. Recertification of a provider shall be at the discretion of the
83 commissioner and in such form and manner determined by the
84 commissioner.

85 (f) Any person who is required to attend a highway work zone and
86 roadside vehicle safety program because such person has been
87 convicted of a violation of section 14-283b of the general statutes, as
88 amended by this act, or 14-212d of the general statutes, as amended by
89 this act, shall (1) attend and successfully complete such program in
90 person in a congregate setting, and (2) have such requirement and the
91 completion date of such requirement posted on such person's driving
92 history record maintained by the commissioner. The date of program
93 completion shall remain on such person's driving history record until
94 such person has attained thirty-six consecutive months without any
95 additional moving violations, suspension violations or violation of
96 section 14-283b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, being
97 posted to such person's driving history record. Until the completion of
98 such thirty-six consecutive months, the Commissioner of Motor
99 Vehicles shall suspend such person's operator's license or operating
100 privilege for: (A) Thirty days upon a first conviction for any specified
101 moving violation, suspension violation or violation of section 14-283b of
102 the general statutes, as amended by this act; (B) sixty days upon a second
103 conviction for any specified moving violation, suspension violation or
104 violation of section 14-283b of the general statutes, as amended by this
105 act; and (C) ninety days for a third or subsequent conviction of a
106 specified moving violation, suspension violation or violation of section
107 14-283b of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

108 (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with

109 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this
110 section.

111 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is
112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
113 *1, 2025*):

114 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any
115 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant
116 has held a youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements
117 specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) submit to the
118 commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a
119 certificate of the successful completion (i) in a public secondary school,
120 a technical education and career school or a private secondary school of
121 a full course of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided
122 in section 14-36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided by a licensed
123 drivers' school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training
124 in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each
125 case, or by a combination of such types of training, successful
126 completion of: Not less than forty clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-
127 the-road instruction for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit
128 is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) submit to the commissioner, in
129 such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a certificate of the
130 successful completion of (i) a course of not less than eight hours relative
131 to safe driving practices, including a minimum of four hours on the
132 nature and the medical, biological and physiological effects of alcohol
133 and drugs, including cannabis, as defined in section 21a-420, and their
134 impact on the operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with
135 the operation of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or
136 drugs by the operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse, the
137 penalties for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations and a
138 video presentation specific to the impact of cannabis on the operator of
139 a motor vehicle and how the ingestion of cannabis can cause impairment
140 of motor function, reaction time, perception and peripheral vision, and
141 (ii) for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit is issued on or
142 after October 1, 2025, the highway work zone and roadside vehicle

143 safety awareness program described in section 3 of this act; and (C) pass
144 an examination which may include a comprehensive test as to
145 knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the
146 road in addition to the test required under subsection (c) of this section
147 and shall include an on-the-road skills test as prescribed by the
148 commissioner. At the time of application and examination for a motor
149 vehicle operator's license, an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age
150 shall have held a youth instruction permit for not less than one hundred
151 eighty days, except that an applicant who presents a certificate under
152 subparagraph (A)(i) or subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall
153 have held a youth instruction permit for not less than one hundred
154 twenty days and an applicant who is undergoing training and
155 instruction by the driver training unit for persons with disabilities in
156 accordance with the provisions of section 14-11b shall have held such
157 permit for the period of time required by said unit. The commissioner
158 shall approve the content of the safe driving [instruction] practices
159 course at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools.
160 Subject to such standards and requirements as the commissioner may
161 impose, the commissioner may authorize any drivers' school, licensed
162 in good standing in accordance with the provisions of section 14-69, or
163 secondary school driver education program authorized pursuant to the
164 provisions of section 14-36e, to administer the comprehensive test as to
165 knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the
166 road, required pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, as part
167 of the safe driving practices course required pursuant to subparagraph
168 (B) of this subdivision, and to certify to the commissioner, under oath,
169 the results of each such test administered. Such hours of instruction
170 required by this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition
171 to any existing instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course
172 required under subparagraph [(B)] (B)(i) or subparagraph (B)(ii) of this
173 subdivision shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars. Any applicant
174 sixteen or seventeen years of age who, while a resident of another state,
175 completed the course required in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision,
176 but did not complete the safe driving practices course required in
177 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, shall complete the safe driving

178 practices course. The commissioner may waive any requirement in this
179 subdivision, except for [that in] the requirements of subparagraph (C)
180 of this subdivision, in the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years
181 of age who holds a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any
182 other state, provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has
183 received training and instruction of a similar nature.

184 (2) The commissioner may accept as evidence of sufficient training
185 under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection home
186 training as evidenced by a written statement submitted to the
187 commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs. Such
188 statement shall be signed by the spouse of a married minor applicant, or
189 by a parent, grandparent, foster parent or legal guardian of an applicant,
190 and state that the applicant has obtained a youth instruction permit and
191 has successfully completed a driving course taught by the person
192 signing the statement, that the signer has had an operator's license for
193 at least four years preceding the date of the statement, and that the
194 signer has not had such license suspended by the commissioner for at
195 least four years preceding the date of the statement. If the applicant has
196 no spouse, parent, grandparent, foster parent or guardian so qualified
197 and available to give the instruction, such statement may be signed by
198 the applicant's stepparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, by blood or
199 marriage, provided the person signing the statement is qualified.

200 (3) The knowledge test for a class D motor vehicle operator's license
201 required under this section shall be administered (A) in electronic and
202 audio format and any other format the commissioner deems
203 appropriate, and (B) at the option of the applicant, in English, Spanish
204 or any language spoken at home by at least one per cent of the state's
205 population, according to statistics prepared by the United States Census
206 Bureau, based on the most recent decennial census. The knowledge test
207 shall also be administered in a written or electronic format in at least
208 twenty-six other languages that the commissioner, in consultation with
209 representatives of organizations that advocate on behalf of or assist
210 immigrants, refugees or other persons who are English language
211 learners, determines are responsive to the linguistic needs of the

212 emerging immigrant and refugee populations in the state. Each
213 knowledge test offered in such other languages shall be reviewed by a
214 person who is fluent in the language of such knowledge test and may
215 also be administered in an audio format as the commissioner deems
216 appropriate. The commissioner shall require any applicant under this
217 section to have sufficient understanding of English for the interpretation
218 of traffic control signs.

219 (4) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
220 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the purposes of this subsection
221 concerning the requirements for behind-the-wheel, on-the-road
222 instruction, the content of safe driving [instruction] practices course at
223 drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools, and the
224 administration and certification of required testing.

225 Sec. 5. Section 14-37b of the general statutes is repealed and the
226 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

227 Any applicant for a motor vehicle operator's license who has not
228 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license and who
229 does not hold a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any
230 other state, by any territory or possession of the United States, or by any
231 foreign country with which the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has an
232 agreement for reciprocal recognition of driver training requirements,
233 shall be subject to the requirements of subdivision (3) of subsection (e)
234 of section 14-36 and shall be required to present to the Commissioner of
235 Motor Vehicles a certificate of the successful completion of (1) a course
236 of not less than eight hours relative to safe driving practices, including
237 a minimum of four hours on the nature and the medical, biological and
238 physiological effects of alcohol and drugs and their impact on the
239 operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation
240 of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the
241 operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for
242 alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations, and (2) on and after
243 October 1, 2025, the highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety
244 awareness program described in section 3 of this act. The commissioner

245 may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
246 establishing standards for commercial drivers' schools that are licensed
247 in accordance with the provisions of section 14-69 to offer and conduct
248 the course of instruction required by this section.

249 Sec. 6. Section 14-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the
250 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

251 (a) (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public
252 highway of the state, or any road of any specially chartered municipal
253 association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter
254 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads
255 and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more or upon any
256 private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance
257 with the provisions of section 14-218a or section 14-307a or upon any
258 school property recklessly, having regard to the width, traffic and use
259 of such highway, road, school property or parking area, the intersection
260 of streets and the weather conditions.

261 (2) The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or
262 parking area for ten cars or more at such a rate of speed as to endanger
263 the life of any person other than the operator of such motor vehicle, or
264 the operation, downgrade, upon any highway, of any motor vehicle
265 with a commercial registration with the clutch or gears disengaged, or
266 the operation knowingly of a motor vehicle with defective mechanism,
267 shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this section.

268 (3) The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or
269 parking area for ten cars or more at a rate of speed greater than eighty-
270 five miles per hour shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this
271 section.

272 (4) The operation of a motor vehicle upon a limited access highway
273 while engaged in any activity prohibited by section 14-296aa, as
274 amended by this act, shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this
275 section.

276 (b) Any person who violates any provision of this section (1) for the
277 first offense, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more
278 than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or
279 be both fined and imprisoned, [for the first offense] except any person
280 who violates any provision of this section while operating a motor
281 vehicle within a highway work zone, as defined in section 14-212d, as
282 amended by this act, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars
283 or imprisoned more than three months or be both fined and imprisoned,
284 and (2) for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not more than six
285 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined
286 and imprisoned.

287 Sec. 7. Section 14-296aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
288 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

289 (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
290 following meanings:

291 (1) "Mobile telephone" means a cellular, analog, wireless or digital
292 telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone communications
293 without an access line for service.

294 (2) "Using" or "use" means holding a hand-held mobile telephone to,
295 or in the immediate proximity of, the user's ear.

296 (3) "Hand-held mobile telephone" means a mobile telephone with
297 which a user engages in a call using at least one hand.

298 (4) "Hands-free accessory" means an attachment, add-on, built-in
299 feature, or addition to a mobile telephone, whether or not permanently
300 installed in a motor vehicle, that, when used, allows the vehicle operator
301 to maintain both hands on the steering wheel.

302 (5) "Hands-free mobile telephone" means a hand-held mobile
303 telephone that has an internal feature or function, or that is equipped
304 with an attachment or addition, whether or not permanently part of
305 such hand-held mobile telephone, by which a user engages in a call
306 without the use of either hand, whether or not the use of either hand is

307 necessary to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of such telephone.

308 (6) "Engage in a call" means talking into or listening on a hand-held
309 mobile telephone, but does not include holding a hand-held mobile
310 telephone to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of such telephone.

311 (7) "Immediate proximity" means the distance that permits the
312 operator of a hand-held mobile telephone to hear telecommunications
313 transmitted over such hand-held mobile telephone, but does not require
314 physical contact with such operator's ear.

315 (8) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable
316 electronic equipment capable of providing data communication
317 between two or more persons, including a text messaging device, a
318 paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer,
319 equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video
320 disk, or equipment on which digital photographs are taken or
321 transmitted, or any combination thereof, but does not include any audio
322 equipment or any equipment installed in a motor vehicle for the
323 purpose of providing navigation, emergency assistance to the operator
324 of such motor vehicle or video entertainment to the passengers in the
325 rear seats of such motor vehicle.

326 (9) "Operating a motor vehicle" means operating a motor vehicle on
327 any highway, [as defined in section 14-1,] including being temporarily
328 stationary due to traffic, road conditions or a traffic control sign or
329 signal, but not including being parked on the side or shoulder of any
330 highway where such vehicle is safely able to remain stationary.

331 (10) "Highway", "commercial motor vehicle" and "authorized
332 emergency vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in section 14-
333 1.

334 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and
335 subsections (c) and (d) of this section, no person shall operate a motor
336 vehicle upon a highway [, as defined in section 14-1,] while using a
337 hand-held mobile telephone to engage in a call or while using a mobile

338 electronic device. An operator of a motor vehicle who types, sends or
339 reads a text message with a hand-held mobile telephone or mobile
340 electronic device while operating a motor vehicle shall be in violation of
341 this section, except that if such operator is driving a commercial motor
342 vehicle, [as defined in section 14-1,] such operator shall be charged with
343 a violation of subsection (e) of this section.

344 (2) An operator of a motor vehicle who holds a hand-held mobile
345 telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of, his or her ear while
346 operating a motor vehicle is presumed to be engaging in a call within
347 the meaning of this section. The presumption established by this
348 subdivision is rebuttable by evidence tending to show that the operator
349 was not engaged in a call.

350 (3) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed as
351 authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of a hand-held mobile telephone or
352 a mobile electronic device, unless otherwise provided by law.

353 (4) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to: (A) The use
354 of a hand-held mobile telephone for the sole purpose of communicating
355 with any of the following regarding an emergency situation: An
356 emergency response operator; a hospital, physician's office or health
357 clinic; an ambulance company; a fire department; or a police
358 department, or (B) any of the following persons while in the
359 performance of their official duties and within the scope of their
360 employment: A peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of section
361 53a-3, a firefighter or an operator of an ambulance or authorized
362 emergency vehicle [, as defined in section 14-1,] or a member of the
363 armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 27-103, while
364 operating a military vehicle, or (C) the use of a hand-held radio by a
365 person with an amateur radio station license issued by the Federal
366 Communications Commission in emergency situations for emergency
367 purposes only, or (D) the use of a hands-free mobile telephone.

368 (c) No person shall use a hand-held mobile telephone or other
369 electronic device, including those with hands-free accessories, or a
370 mobile electronic device, while operating a school bus that is carrying

371 passengers, except that this subsection shall not apply when such
372 person: (1) Places an emergency call to school officials; (2) uses a hand-
373 held mobile telephone as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision
374 (4) of subsection (b) of this section; (3) uses a hand-held mobile
375 telephone or mobile electronic device in a manner similar to a two-way
376 radio to allow real-time communication with a school official, an
377 emergency response operator, a hospital, physician's office or health
378 clinic, an ambulance company, a fire department or a police department;
379 or (4) uses a mobile electronic device with a video display, provided
380 such device (A) is used as a global positioning system or to provide
381 navigation, (B) is securely attached inside the school bus near such
382 person, and (C) has been approved for such use by the Department of
383 Motor Vehicles.

384 (d) No person under eighteen years of age shall use any hand-held
385 mobile telephone, including one with a hands-free accessory, or a
386 mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle on a public
387 highway, except as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4) of
388 subsection (b) of this section.

389 (e) No person shall use a hand-held mobile telephone or other
390 electronic device or type, read or send text or a text message with or
391 from a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device while operating a
392 commercial motor vehicle, [as defined in section 14-1,] except for the
393 purpose of communicating with any of the following regarding an
394 emergency situation: An emergency response operator; a hospital;
395 physician's office or health clinic; an ambulance company; a fire
396 department or a police department.

397 (f) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this
398 section, no person shall engage in any activity not related to the actual
399 operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe
400 operation of such vehicle on any highway. [, as defined in section 14-1.]

401 (g) Any law enforcement officer who issues a summons for a
402 violation of this section shall record on such summons the specific
403 nature of any distracted driving behavior observed by such officer.

404 (h) Any person who violates this section shall be fined two hundred
405 dollars for a first violation, three hundred seventy-five dollars for a
406 second violation and six hundred twenty-five dollars for a third or
407 subsequent violation.

408 (i) An operator of a motor vehicle who commits a moving violation,
409 as defined in subsection (a) of section 14-111g, while engaged in any
410 activity prohibited by this section shall be fined in accordance with
411 subsection (h) of this section, in addition to any penalty or fine imposed
412 for the moving violation.

413 (j) The state shall remit to a municipality twenty-five per cent of the
414 fine amount received for a violation of this section with respect to each
415 summons issued by such municipality. Each clerk of the Superior Court
416 or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the Superior
417 Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on or before
418 the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, certify
419 to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this
420 subsection to each municipality served by the office of the clerk or
421 official.

422 (k) A record of any violation of this section shall appear on the
423 driving history record or motor vehicle record, as defined in section 14-
424 10, of any person who commits such violation, and the record of such
425 violation shall be available to any motor vehicle insurer in accordance
426 with the provisions of section 14-10.

427 (l) No person shall be subject to the prosecution for a violation of the
428 provisions of this section and subsection (a) of section 14-222, as
429 amended by this act, because of the same offense.

430 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 14-283b of the general statutes is
431 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
432 *1, 2025*):

433 (d) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of
434 this section shall have committed an infraction, except that if such

435 violation results in the injury of the operator or any occupant of an
 436 emergency vehicle, such person shall be fined not more than [two
 437 thousand five hundred] ten thousand dollars and, if such violation
 438 results in the death of the operator or any occupant of an emergency
 439 vehicle, such person shall be fined not more than [ten] twenty thousand
 440 dollars.

441 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of this
 442 section shall have committed an infraction.

443 Sec. 9. Subsection (f) of section 14-212d of the general statutes is
 444 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 445 *1, 2025*):

446 (f) Upon conviction or a plea of guilty for committing the offense of
 447 aggravated endangerment of a highway worker, a person shall be
 448 subject to a fine of (1) not more than [five] ten thousand dollars if such
 449 offense results in serious physical injury to a highway worker, or (2)
 450 [ten] twenty thousand dollars if such offense results in the death of a
 451 highway worker, in addition to any other penalty authorized by law.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-36(d)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-37b
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-222
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-296aa
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-283b(d)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-212d(f)

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 \$
Department of Transportation	TF - Cost	Up to 5,000	None
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
State Revenues	Various - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: TF=Transportation Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Sections 1 and 2 designate the "Andrew DiDomenico Memorial Highway" and the "State Trooper First Class Aaron M. Pelletier Memorial Bridge" resulting in one-time costs to the Department of Transportation of up to \$5,000 to create and install highway signs.

Sections 3 through 5 create a new highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program, administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to be completed by initial driver's license or permit applicants as well as drivers convicted of violating certain offenses.

As with existing driver education and training programs, it is anticipated that third-party organizations will primarily conduct this program. Specifically, the bill creates an application process and fee of \$350 for organizations seeking to conduct this program, resulting in revenue gain from fees depending on the number of organizations seeking certifications from DMV.

Sections 6 through 9 increase several penalties related to reckless driving and the "move over" law resulting in a potential revenue gain to various state funds.¹

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the actual number of violations or as otherwise described.

¹ In FY 24, approximately \$45,000 was collected in relation to CGS § 14-222, 14-283b, and 14-212d. This revenue is related to 3,068 charges under the referenced statutes.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7060*****AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION WORKER SAFETY.***

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[SUMMARY](#)[§§ 1 & 2 — ROAD AND BRIDGE NAMINGS](#)

Names a (1) section of road in Meriden the “Andrew DiDomenico Memorial Highway” and (2) bridge in Southington the “State Trooper First Class Aaron M. Pelletier Memorial Bridge”

[§§ 3-5 — HIGHWAY WORK ZONE AND ROADSIDE VEHICLE SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM](#)

Creates a new DMV-administered highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program and related requirements; generally requires driver’s license applicants and violators of the “move over” law or highway worker endangerment law to take the program and requires suspension of violators’ licenses if they commit specified additional violations within a certain time period after completing it

[§§ 6 & 7 — RECKLESS DRIVING](#)

Makes driving a motor vehicle on a limited access highway while engaged in any activity prohibited by the state’s existing distracted driving law a reckless driving violation; sets increased penalties for a first reckless driving offense that occurs in a highway work zone

[§§ 8 & 9 — FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF “MOVE OVER” LAW OR AGGRAVATED ENDANGERMENT OF A HIGHWAY WORKER](#)

Increases current law’s enhanced penalties for violations of the “move over” law and the law on endangering highway workers that result in the injury or death of an emergency vehicle driver or occupant or a highway worker

SUMMARY

This bill (1) creates a new Department of Motor Vehicles-administered highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety

awareness program; (2) increases the penalties for violations of several laws related to roadway safety, including the safety of highway workers and emergency vehicle drivers; and (3) names a road and bridge. It also makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes. A section-by-section analysis follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, except the road and bridge namings are effective upon passage.

§§ 1 & 2 — ROAD AND BRIDGE NAMINGS

Names a (1) section of road in Meriden the “Andrew DiDomenico Memorial Highway” and (2) bridge in Southington the “State Trooper First Class Aaron M. Pelletier Memorial Bridge”

The bill names (1) a section of Connecticut Special Service Road 495 in Meriden the “Andrew DiDomenico Memorial Highway” and (2) Bridge No. 01241 in Southington the “State Trooper First Class Aaron M. Pelletier Memorial Bridge.”

§§ 3-5 — HIGHWAY WORK ZONE AND ROADSIDE VEHICLE SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM

Creates a new DMV-administered highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program and related requirements; generally requires driver’s license applicants and violators of the “move over” law or highway worker endangerment law to take the program and requires suspension of violators’ licenses if they commit specified additional violations within a certain time period after completing it

The bill creates a new highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). It generally requires this program to be completed by (1) applicants for a driver’s license or learner’s permit and (2) drivers convicted of violating the “move over” law or the law on endangering highway workers (see §§ 8 & 9 below).

Specifically, the bill requires 16- and 17-year-old driver’s license applicants who receive a learner’s permit on or after October 1, 2025, to submit a program completion certificate to the DMV commissioner, as he prescribes. Beginning on the same date, it also generally applies this requirement to any driver’s license applicant who (1) has not previously held a Connecticut license and (2) does not hold a valid license issued by (a) another state or U.S. territory or possession or (b) a foreign

country with which the commissioner has an agreement for reciprocal recognition of driver training requirements.

The bill establishes program requirements and allows the commissioner to certify organizations (e.g., licensed driving schools) to offer the program. It requires a violator's driving record to reflect program participation for a specified time period and sets license suspension requirements for drivers who commit certain additional violations during this time period.

The bill also requires the DMV commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the program.

Program Requirements

Under the bill, the highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program must, at minimum, do the following and conclude with a written or electronic test:

1. review principles of safe motor vehicle operation,
2. highlight dangers of highway work zones and emphasize risks related to driving unsafely in them,
3. include testimonials from highway workers and their families,
4. emphasize the dangers of vehicles located on the highway shoulder, and
5. review proper interactions with emergency vehicles.

DMV and other program providers (see below) may offer it in person, virtually (i.e. through distance learning), or by a combination of both. The virtual option must have interactive components (e.g., mandatory interactions, participation, or testing). Any person required to attend the program due to a conviction for one of the violations discussed above must complete it in person.

Program Fee. The bill sets a maximum \$150 fee providers may

charge for the program. (The cap specifically applies when the program is provided to 16- and 17-year-olds according to related driver's license application requirements, as described above, but appears to apply for other required participants as well.)

Program Providers

The bill requires DMV to offer the program and allows the commissioner to certify other organizations (e.g., licensed driving schools) to do so. He must determine how many program providers are needed.

Under the bill, each organization or driving school seeking certification or recertification must apply to DMV as the commissioner prescribes and submit a \$350 application fee. Certifications are valid for two years and are not transferable. Additionally, each applicant must:

1. be registered to do business in Connecticut and maintain good standing with the Office of the Secretary of the State;
2. have a permanent place of business in the state where all program records are maintained and accessible to DMV during normal business hours;
3. submit to the DMV commissioner for approval a detailed curriculum and lesson plan (including any changes to them), which will be used in each program;
4. electronically transmit to the commissioner, at the times and in the form he prescribes, information on enrollment and program completion; and
5. file and maintain a \$50,000 surety bond (a) conditioned on compliance with state and federal laws or regulations related to the program and (b) provided as indemnity for the state's or any person's losses or expenses due to the program provider's acts or omissions.

This bond must be executed in the name of the state for the benefit of

any aggrieved party, but the penalty of the bond may only be imposed on the DMV commissioner's order after a hearing.

Under the bill, the commissioner has discretion over provider recertification.

Background Check. Before the DMV commissioner certifies an applicant to provide the program, he must investigate the applicant's character, driving history, and criminal history (including its principals and officers, in the case of business entities). The bill requires applicants to submit to the commissioner any information on current or past criminal or civil actions.

Driving Records and License Suspension

Under the bill, anyone required to attend the program due to a "move over" law or highway worker endangerment law violation, as discussed above, must have the requirement and its completion date posted on his or her driving record. The program completion date must remain on the driver's record until he or she has gone 36 consecutive months without any subsequent (1) moving or suspension violations or (2) violations of the "move over" law.

If a driver commits one of these violations before 36 months pass, the commissioner must suspend his or her driver's license for (1) 30 days upon a first conviction, (2) 60 days upon a second conviction, and (3) 90 days upon a third or subsequent conviction.

"Moving violations" and "suspension violations" are violations specified in existing law for which the DMV commissioner can require a driver, after committing a certain number of them, to attend a four-hour operator's retraining program. These violations include, for example, speeding and reckless driving.

§§ 6 & 7 — RECKLESS DRIVING

Makes driving a motor vehicle on a limited access highway while engaged in any activity prohibited by the state's existing distracted driving law a reckless driving violation; sets increased penalties for a first reckless driving offense that occurs in a highway work zone

Distracted Driving on a Limited Access Highway

The bill makes it a reckless driving violation to drive a motor vehicle on a limited access highway while engaging in any activity the state's existing distracted driving law prohibits. Under current law, the penalty for a first reckless driving offense is a fine of \$100 to \$300, up to 30 days imprisonment, or both. The penalty for a subsequent offense is a fine up to \$600, up to 364 days imprisonment, or both. (Existing law's distracted driving penalties are a fine of \$200 for a first violation, \$375 for a second violation, and \$625 for subsequent violations.) Under the bill, a person cannot be prosecuted for both a reckless driving violation and distracted driving violation for the same offense.

The distracted driving law generally prohibits a driver from talking or listening with a hand-held cell phone (unless he or she uses a hands-free device), using any mobile electronic device, or texting on either. It provides for certain exceptions, such as to contact an emergency response operator or police department in an emergency. It also prohibits, with certain exceptions, the use of these devices (even with hands-free accessories) by drivers under age 18 or school bus operators driving with passengers.

Increased Penalty for Reckless Driving in a Work Zone

For first reckless driving offenses that occur in a highway work zone, the bill increases the penalty to a fine of up to \$500, up to three months imprisonment, or both. For subsequent offenses, the bill retains the penalties in existing law (see above).

As under existing law, a "highway work zone" is an area of a state highway (1) where construction, maintenance, or utility work is being performed and (2) that is marked in a specified manner signifying where the work zone begins and ends.

Background — Related Bills

sSB 1375, reported favorably by the Transportation Committee, (1) modifies the distracted driving law by explicitly prohibiting watching or playing a video while driving, including on an installed screen or other digital display (§ 4), and (2) requires drivers to attend the

operator's retraining program upon their first conviction of reckless driving (§ 9).

sHB 7204 (File 476), reported favorably by the Public Safety and Security Committee, criminalizes certain violations by subjecting them to the penalties for reckless driving (§ 2).

§§ 8 & 9 — FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF “MOVE OVER” LAW OR AGGRAVATED ENDANGERMENT OF A HIGHWAY WORKER

Increases current law's enhanced penalties for violations of the “move over” law and the law on endangering highway workers that result in the injury or death of an emergency vehicle driver or occupant or a highway worker

“Move Over” Law

The state's “move over” law requires drivers, when approaching slow or stationary emergency vehicles in the shoulder, lane, or breakdown lane, to (1) immediately slow down to a speed reasonably below the speed limit and (2) if traveling in the lane adjacent to the shoulder or lane with the emergency vehicle, move over one lane unless it would be unsafe to do so. (While these provisions specifically apply on public roads with at least two travel lanes going in the same direction, the requirement to slow down generally also applies to two-lane roads with undivided traffic proceeding in opposite directions.)

Under current law, violations are generally infractions; however, violators are subject to higher fines if the violation results in an emergency vehicle driver's or occupant's injury (up to \$2,500) or death (up to \$10,000). The bill increases these enhanced penalties to \$10,000 and \$20,000, respectively.

Endangerment of a Highway Worker

Under existing law, drivers generally commit the offense of endangerment of a highway worker if they are convicted of any of the following in a highway work zone with a highway worker nearby:

1. exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 15 mph;
2. failing to obey certain traffic control devices for any reason other than an emergency, avoiding an obstacle, or protecting another

person's health and safety;

3. driving through or around the work zone in a lane not clearly designated for this use; or
4. physically assaulting, attempting to assault, or threatening a highway worker with a motor vehicle or other instrument.

Drivers commit the offense of "aggravated endangerment of a highway worker" if they are convicted of one of the above offenses that resulted in a highway worker's serious physical injury or death. The bill increases the enhanced penalties for this offense from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (in the case of injury) and from \$10,000 to \$20,000 (in the case of death).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/19/2025)