



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 842

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7060

House of Representatives, May 7, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th 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;

13 (2) "Emergency vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in section

14 14-283 of the general statutes;

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

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

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

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

35 (d) Such program shall be offered by the Department of Motor
36 Vehicles, or by any other organization certified by the commissioner to
37 conduct such program in person in a congregate setting, through
38 distance learning or through a combination of both in-person and
39 distance learning, provided such distance learning has interactive
40 components such as mandatory interactions, participation or testing.
41 Any drivers' school that meets the licensure requirement of part IV of
42 chapter 246 of the general statutes shall be eligible to seek certification
43 to offer the highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness
44 program. The commissioner shall determine the number of program
45 providers necessary to serve the needs of the public.

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

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

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

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

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

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

73 (2) Prior to the certification of an applicant, the commissioner shall
74 investigate the applicant's character, driving history and criminal
75 history. If the applicant is a business entity, such investigation shall
76 include the principals and officers of such entity. The applicant shall

77 submit to the commissioner any information pertaining to current or
78 past criminal or civil actions. The certification of a program provider by
79 the commissioner shall not be transferable and shall be valid for a two-
80 year period. Recertification of a provider shall be at the discretion of the
81 commissioner and in such form and manner determined by the
82 commissioner.

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

105 (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
106 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this
107 section.

108 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is
109 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

110 1, 2025):

111 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any
112 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant
113 has held a youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements
114 specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) submit to the
115 commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a
116 certificate of the successful completion (i) in a public secondary school,
117 a technical education and career school or a private secondary school of
118 a full course of study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided
119 in section 14-36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided by a licensed
120 drivers' school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training
121 in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each
122 case, or by a combination of such types of training, successful
123 completion of: Not less than forty clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-
124 the-road instruction for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit
125 is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) submit to the commissioner, in
126 such manner as the commissioner shall direct, a certificate of the
127 successful completion of (i) a course of not less than eight hours relative
128 to safe driving practices, including a minimum of four hours on the
129 nature and the medical, biological and physiological effects of alcohol
130 and drugs, including cannabis, as defined in section 21a-420, and their
131 impact on the operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with
132 the operation of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or
133 drugs by the operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse, the
134 penalties for alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations and a
135 video presentation specific to the impact of cannabis on the operator of
136 a motor vehicle and how the ingestion of cannabis can cause impairment
137 of motor function, reaction time, perception and peripheral vision, and
138 (ii) for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit is issued on or
139 after October 1, 2025, the highway work zone and roadside vehicle
140 safety awareness program described in section 3 of this act; and (C) pass
141 an examination which may include a comprehensive test as to
142 knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the
143 road in addition to the test required under subsection (c) of this section
144 and shall include an on-the-road skills test as prescribed by the

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

180 received training and instruction of a similar nature.

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

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

214 section to have sufficient understanding of English for the interpretation
215 of traffic control signs.

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

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

224 Any applicant for a motor vehicle operator's license who has not
225 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license and who
226 does not hold a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any
227 other state, by any territory or possession of the United States, or by any
228 foreign country with which the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has an
229 agreement for reciprocal recognition of driver training requirements,
230 shall be subject to the requirements of subdivision (3) of subsection (e)
231 of section 14-36 and shall be required to present to the Commissioner of
232 Motor Vehicles a certificate of the successful completion of (1) a course
233 of not less than eight hours relative to safe driving practices, including
234 a minimum of four hours on the nature and the medical, biological and
235 physiological effects of alcohol and drugs and their impact on the
236 operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation
237 of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the
238 operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for
239 alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations, and (2) on and after
240 October 1, 2025, the highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety
241 awareness program described in section 3 of this act. The commissioner
242 may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
243 establishing standards for commercial drivers' schools that are licensed
244 in accordance with the provisions of section 14-69 to offer and conduct
245 the course of instruction required by this section.

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 3(f), "safety program" was changed to "safety awareness program" for consistency, and in Section 3(f)(2), "such requirement" was changed to "such program requirement" for clarity.

JUD *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

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

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.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

continue into the future subject to the number of organizations seeking certifications from DMV.

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

This bill creates a new highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) (§§ 3-5). It generally requires driver's license applicants and violators of the state's "move over" law or highway worker endangerment law to take the program. The bill sets various program requirements, including establishing a \$150 maximum program fee, and allows DMV to certify other organizations (e.g., licensed driving schools) to offer it. The bill also requires the DMV commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the program.

The bill 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 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" (§§ 1 & 2).

Lastly, it makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes.

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

HIGHWAY WORK ZONE AND ROADSIDE VEHICLE SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM

The bill's DMV-administered highway work zone and roadside vehicle safety awareness program generally must be completed by (1)

drivers convicted of violating the “move over” law or the law on endangering highway workers (see BACKGROUND) and (2) applicants for a driver’s license or learner’s permit.

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.

Program Requirements

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

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) 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.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 558) to the Judiciary Committee,

which reported out a substitute that replaced the prior bill and eliminated provisions:

1. making 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,
2. setting increased penalties for a first reckless driving offense that occurs in a highway work zone, and
3. increasing 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.

Endangerment of a Highway Worker

By 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.

"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.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/19/2025)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 0 (04/25/2025)