

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1284

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ILLEGAL USE OF CERTAIN VEHICLES AND

**Title:** STREET TAKEOVERS.

**Vote Date:** 4/8/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/7/2025

**File No.:**

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## SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

## REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut has seen an increase in street takeovers over the years which can cause traffic and potential accidents. This bill aims to curb that increase by allowing municipalities to confiscate illegally used vehicles, adopt ordinances, and revise the period for suspension of a license and allow for an individual's license to be revoked for participating in a street takeover.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Attorney General William Tong, Office of the Attorney General:** The Attorney General supports this legislation because he personally witnesses the dangerous driving on Connecticut roads and believes it poses significant danger to the public, whether it be drivers, cyclists, or pedestrians. He believes the authority of municipalities to seize and destroy vehicles used in street takeovers is a strong preventative measure, and he also supports strong fines and penalties for participants who engage in them.

**Ronnell Higgins, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection:** Commissioner Higgins supports this legislation because it gives municipalities more resources to deal with the issue. He explained that these events strain the resources of law enforcement and endanger large volumes of pedestrians. He believes the ability to destroy vehicles confiscated during street takeovers will prevent them from getting them back into the hands of perpetrators who often buy the vehicles back.

**Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel and Director, Office of the Chief Public**

**Defender:** The Office of the Chief Public Defender submitted testimony in opposition to section four of this legislation, which dictates that anyone present during one of these events is subject to punishment, even if they did not operate a vehicle during the event.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association (CPCA):** The CPCA supports this legislation because they believe the storage of vehicles confiscated as a result of a street takeover is burdensome on taxpayers, and they believe selling these vehicles is not an option as they just end up back in the hands of perpetrators of street takeovers.

**Mike Muszynski, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities:** They support this legislation because municipalities are currently limited in ways to prevent street takeovers due to regulations regarding seizure of bikes and ATVs used during these events. They believe the ability to destroy these vehicles will prevent them from being re-acquired by perpetrators.

**Justin Elicker, Mayor, New Haven, CT:** He supports this legislation and hopes to see this legislation adopted throughout the country. He believes that this legislation provides municipalities tools and authority to truly handle this issue, which puts many pedestrians in danger in New Haven.

**Betsy Gara, Executive Director, CT Council of Small Towns:** They support this legislation because the issue of street takeovers has been brought up as a public safety issue in multiple municipalities. She believes that increased penalties and authority to confiscate/destroy bikes and ATVs used will empower police to better counter these events.

**Laura Francis, Executive Director, South Central Regional Council of Governments:**

They support this legislation because it provides municipalities with the ability to take preventative measures and enforce stricter penalties against street takeovers. She stated that street takeovers and improper use of dirt bikes, ATVs, and mini motorcycles pose a significant danger to the public. She furthered that this bill also provides protections for members of the public harmed by street takeovers.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Council, ACLU CT:** They submitted testimony in opposition to this legislation because they believe that this will enable the over policing of minority areas under the guise of protection from street takeovers and will disproportionately affect young men of color.

**Reported by:** Griffin Olshan

**Date:** April 2, 2025