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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 1388**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING FAILURE TO MOVE OVER FOR AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF THE OPERATOR OR OTHER OCCUPANT OF THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill increases, from a fine of up to \$10,000 to a class B felony, the penalty for a violation of the state's "move over" law (see below) that results in the death of an emergency vehicle's operator or occupant. A class B felony is punishable by a fine up to \$15,000; up to 20 years in prison, with a one-year mandatory minimum; or both.

The bill makes such a violation of the move over law 1st degree manslaughter, a class B felony, by specifying that the violation constitutes circumstances evincing an extreme indifference to human life. By law, among other circumstances, a person is guilty of 1st degree manslaughter when, under circumstances evincing an extreme indifference to human life, he or she recklessly engages in conduct which creates a grave risk of death to another person, and in so doing causes that person's death.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

#### **"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 (drivers must also do this when approaching slow or stationary nonemergency vehicles). This law applies on public roads with at least two travel lanes going in the same direction, as well as two-lane roads (i.e. those with two lanes of undivided traffic

proceeding in opposite directions) (CGS § 14-283b).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea     41     Nay   0     (04/04/2025)