

Re: HB 6098 -- An Act Concerning Combination and Commercial Registrations

MTAC Opposes

Chairman Lemar, Chairman Cassano, Ranking Member Somers, Ranking Member Carney, and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Joe Sculley, I am the president of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC), which is a statewide trade association representing more than 500 businesses, most of which are small business trucking companies.

If I understand correctly, this proposal is aimed at “mom and pop” stores which may have only a few, small vehicles. Local law enforcement may sometimes have trouble reaching the owner of the small vehicle(s) after an incident, such as a traffic accident. So with that said, we have concerns about the way the proposal is written, which is to “require the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to include motor vehicle operator license numbers on combination and commercial registrations.”

In the commercial trucking industry, any truck in a fleet can be driven by any driver employed by the company, on any given day. This is true for businesses, for example, with 5 trucks and 3 drivers, or a business with 5,000 trucks and 10,000 drivers. It is not possible for a business in the commercial trucking industry to identify one driver who will be responsible for driving one truck, and put that person’s driver’s license number on the registration.

I am not sure that there would be any way to write legislation that would apply to only the smallest businesses, using small vehicles such as vans. Another thing to keep in mind is that private car / limo companies would also be impacted by this in a similar way the trucking industry would be. Their drivers can drive any car in the fleet on any given day.

Perhaps there are ways using existing resources for local law enforcement to track down non-responsive small business owners. For example, every business is registered with the Secretary of State, and the individual who owns the business has their name and address on file with the Secretary of State. Additionally, each business must designate a Service Agent, and list that individual’s name and address on records with the Secretary of State. For businesses that are required to be registered with USDOT, anyone can view a public profile of that business, which shows their address and phone number, here: [SAFER Web - Company Snapshot \(dot.gov\)](http://SAFER Web - Company Snapshot (dot.gov))

MTAC respectfully asks that interested parties attempt to use existing resources for the enforcement activities. Thank you for your consideration.

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ABOUT CT TRUCKING INDUSTRY:



85.8%: number of Connecticut communities that depend exclusively on trucks to move their goods

98%: percent of manufactured tonnage transported by truck in Connecticut

\$3.4 billion: total trucking industry wages paid in Connecticut (2018)

61,590: trucking industry jobs in Connecticut (2018)

\$55,777: average annual salary in Connecticut (2018)

\$9,026: average annual CT-imposed highway user fees paid by tractor trailers (as of 1/1/2020)

\$8,906: average annual fed-imposed highway user fees paid by tractor trailers (as of 1/1/2020)