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Fact Sheet: House Bill 5324, An Act Concerning Secondary Traffic Violations

Connecticut must divest from policing and reinvest in programs that build strong and safe communities. In Connecticut, vehicular stops result in many more searches of Black and brown drivers relative to white drivers.

- Black drivers are almost twice more likely and Latinx drivers are 1.5 times more likely to be stopped for equipment-related violations compared to white drivers.¹
- Black drivers are 1.2 times more likely and Latinx drivers are 1.3 times more likely to be stopped for administrative compared to white drivers.²

One way to shrink policing in Connecticut is through designating secondary traffic stops for low-level equipment and administrative violations and prohibiting police from traffic stops for those administrative violations.

- Equipment offenses: tinted windows; license plate display violations; one broken tail, head, or brake light.
- Administrative offenses: expired registration and license; failure to carry a driver's license; driving with a suspended license; failure to change address.
- Based on recommendations from the Police Accountability and Transparency Task Force.³
- Data from the CT Racial Profiling Project found that minor administrative and equipment violations do not contribute to crashes.⁴
- A single headlight, tail light, reflector, or broken brake light accounted for 24,000 stops but contributed to 0.1% of crashes.⁵
- Virginia, Oregon, Ann Arbor, Memphis, Philadelphia, and Pittsburg have passed secondary stop laws, and California, Washington, and others are considering these measures.⁶

¹ *Evaluation and Recommendations of a Primary and Secondary Traffic Offense*, CONN. RACIAL PROFILING PROHIBITION ADVISORY BD. (Feb. 2021).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/jud/tfs/20200116_Police%20Transparency%20and%20Accountability%20Task%20Force/Related%20Materials/Primary%20vs.%20Secondary%20Offense%20System%20Merits.pdf

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See Virginia House Bill 5058 (2020), <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB5058/2020/X1>; Isiah Thomas, *Councilmember Thomas' Driving Equality Law to Go Into Effect March 3rd*, CTY. COUNCIL PHILADELPHIA (Feb. 23, 2022), <https://phlcouncil.com/councilmember-thomas-driving-equality-law-to-go-into-effect-march-3rd/>; *Pittsburgh City Council Approves Bill Limiting Police Traffic Stops*, KDKA NEWS (Dec. 28, 2021), <https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/traffic-stops-bill-pittsburgh/>.