STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7YY

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – RESUMPTION OF SUPREME AND APPELLATE COURT REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES; CHANGES TO DMV OPERATIONS TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR IN-PERSON VISITS

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued fifty-one (51) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have indicated that persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, and transmission or "shedding" of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, upon a proclamation that a civil preparedness emergency exists, section 28-9(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the modification or suspension in whole or in part by executive order of any statute or regulation or requirement or part thereof that conflicts with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions or the protection of public health; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2, dated March 19, 2020, suspended all statutory (1) location or venue requirements; (2) time requirements, statutes of limitation or other limitations or deadlines relating to service of process, court proceedings or court filings; and (3) all time requirements or deadlines related to the Supreme, Appellate and Superior courts or their judicial officials to issue notices, hold court, hear matters and/or render decisions; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Chief Court Administrator on behalf of the Chief Justice, I have determined that the Judicial Branch may safely resume certain additional court operations and reinstate certain time requirements and deadlines necessary for such resumption; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch intends to issue guidance related to this order in conjunction with its publication; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7E, Section 2 suspended the statutory provision contained in Section 29-17c(a) prohibiting law enforcement officials from refusing to collect fingerprints for criminal background checks; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has been closed to the public since March 18 to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, and the only means of registering a vehicle purchased through a casual sale is by depositing documents in a drop box; and

WHEREAS, existing law permits licensed motor vehicle dealers to issue registrations only for vehicles sold by those dealers, but such dealers have the capability to issue other registrations and thereby reduce in-person visits to DMV; and

WHEREAS, subsection (b) of section 14-16 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that a person who is the designated beneficiary on an individual owner's registration apply for a title and registration in the beneficiary's name within sixty days of such owner's death; and

WHEREAS, documents related to transferring the title to a beneficiary must be examined by staff of the DMV; and

WHEREAS, the DMV presently is open for limited types of transactions, which do not include obtaining a new registration, and will restrict the number of transactions upon full reopening; and

WHEREAS, the DMV is required to examine original title documents before issuing a title and registration for a motor vehicle, but does not want to delay the registration of such a vehicle until it reopens fully; and

WHEREAS, the DMV intends to implement an interim process through which it will issue temporary registrations before examining original title documents; and

WHEREAS, the DMV is required to administer proficiency testing to licensed driving instructors at least every two years, and fulfilling such requirement may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission as a result of close interaction between instructors and DMV personnel in confined spaces; and

WHEREAS, the DMV requires that driving instructors and master instructors submit medical certification every two years as a condition of their instructor license renewal, and it has become difficult for instructors to obtain routine medical appointments for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, extending the time allowed to submit such certifications will help to maintain continuity of operations for driving schools, and renewal of certification of licensed driving instructors and master instructors, and thereby enhance public safety; and

WHEREAS, regulations governing driver's education and operator retraining, as well as school bus driver, instructor and master instructor training require that such training be conducted in a classroom, which may increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, interruptions in training will interfere with the activities and livelihoods of trainees as well as those businesses that deliver training; and

WHEREAS, marine dealers have the authority to issue temporary vessel registrations and certificates of decal on the sale or transfer of a vessel, after which the purchaser must appear at the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a permanent registration and certificate of decal, are capable of issuing permanent registrations and certificates of decal, and have the means to transmit documents to DMV electronically; and

WHEREAS, temporarily allowing marine dealers to issue permanent registrations will reduce the in-person interactions associated with purchasing and registering a vessel, and therefore may reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT:**

1. **Resumption of Supreme and Appellate Court Requirements and Deadlines.** Executive Order No. 7G, Section 2, dated March 19, 2020, is amended to provide that the suspension of requirements or deadlines related to Supreme Court or Appellate Court filings in cases pending before those courts on or after the date of this order shall expire upon the execution of this order.

2. **Issuance of Certain Motor Vehicle Registrations.** Subsection (c) of Section 14-12 of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to permit certain dealers, who are authorized by the Department of Motor Vehicles, to issue new registrations for the following vehicles: passenger, camper, camp trailers, commercial up to 64,500 lbs., combination, and motorcycles that are purchased through casual sales. A dealer may charge the registrant a fee, not to exceed $25, for registering the vehicle through the dealer online process.

3. **Extension of Time for Transfer of Motor Vehicle Registration to Beneficiary.** Subsection (b) of Section 14-16 of the Connecticut General Statutes is amended to extend, by sixty (60) days, the time limitation for a beneficiary designated on an individual motor vehicle owner's registration document to apply for a title and registration if the individual owner has died during the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020.

4. **Waiver of Temporary Registration Fee and Timing of Charge for Use Tax.** For any person who purchased a motor vehicle or vessel on or after March 10, 2020, the Department of Motor Vehicles is authorized to waive the fee, as specified in subsection (n) of Section 14-49 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for a temporary registration that it issues in lieu of a permanent registration. The Department of Motor Vehicles is further authorized to charge the use tax required under Section 12-431 of the Connecticut General Statutes at the time that it issues the permanent registration for such vessel or vehicle.

5. **Postponement of Instructor Proficiency Test.** Section 14-78-45 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is modified to permit the Department of Motor Vehicles to postpone proficiency testing of licensed driving instructors, thereby exceeding the two-year limit applicable to driving instructors who were due for a proficiency test on or after March 1, 2020.

6. **Extension of Time for Driving Instructors to Submit Medical Certification.** The time limitation in Section 14-78-51 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for driving instructors and master driving instructors to submit medical certification to the Commissioner is extended to September 1, 2020 for any instructor whose certification was due on or after March 1, 2020.

7. **DMV Authorization for Online or Remote Training.** The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may authorize the replacement of classroom or in-person training with online training as follows:

    a. All references to classroom training or instruction for driver's education that are found in Sections 14-36f-1 through 14-36f-16 and 14-78-20 through 14-78-48 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are modified to permit the equivalent online training as prescribed by the Commissioner.

a. All references to classroom training or instruction for the Operator Retraining Program that are found in Sections 14-111g-3 through 14-11g-10 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are modified to permit the equivalent online training as prescribed by the Commissioner.

b. All references to classroom training or instruction for school bus drivers, instructors or master instructors that are found in Sections 14-276a-3 through 14-276a-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are modified to permit the equivalent online training as prescribed by the Commissioner.

8. **Dealer Issuance of Permanent Vessel Registrations.** Subsection (e) of Section 15-144 of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to permit marine dealers to issue permanent vessel registrations and certificates of decal upon the sale or transfer of a vessel.

9. **Repeal of Executive Order No. 7E, Section, 2.** Effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 15, 2020, Executive Order No. 7E, Section 2, is repealed.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless earlier modified, extended or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 10th day of June, 2020.

Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State