



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 591

January Session, 2003

Substitute Senate Bill No. 53

Senate, April 30, 2003

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. MCDONALD of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A FIREARM BALLISTIC IDENTIFICATION DATA BANK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Public
2 Safety, in consultation with the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and
3 the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, shall conduct a study to
4 determine the feasibility and potential benefits to law enforcement of
5 establishing a firearm ballistic identification data bank that would
6 contain ballistic images and additional identifying information with
7 respect to new firearms that are sold in this state.

8 (b) The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

9 (1) The methods by which firearm manufacturers, importers and
10 dealers would collect ballistic images from firearms prior to sale in this
11 state and forward that information to the department;

12 (2) The methods by which the department would receive, store and

13 make available to law enforcement agencies such ballistic images
14 submitted by firearm manufacturers, importers and dealers;

15 (3) The methods by which state and local law enforcement agencies
16 would forward ballistic identification information to the department
17 for inclusion in a firearm ballistic identification data bank;

18 (4) The state of current ballistic imaging technology and whether
19 that technology is adequate to accommodate an expanded data bank
20 and to accurately and efficiently produce matches with crime scene
21 evidence;

22 (5) The potential financial costs to the department of establishing
23 and maintaining a state-wide or interstate firearm ballistic
24 identification data bank;

25 (6) The extent to which the establishment of a firearm ballistic
26 identification data bank would assist law enforcement in solving or
27 preventing crimes;

28 (7) The number of states or other jurisdictions that have established
29 firearm ballistic identification data banks, and the effectiveness of
30 those data banks in solving and preventing crime in those states; and

31 (8) The degree of interest in other states in joining together in an
32 interstate compact or agreement for the acquisition, installation and
33 operation of technology for ballistic imaging and for the establishment
34 and maintenance of an interstate firearm ballistic identification data
35 bank.

36 (c) Not later than February 4, 2004, the department shall report its
37 findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
38 General Assembly on the judiciary in accordance with the provisions
39 of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Public Safety, Dept.; Criminal Justice, Div.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Municipal Police Departments	None	None	None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to study the feasibility of establishing a firearm ballistic identification data bank. While there are significant costs associated with the actual implementation of such a system, passage of the bill would not result in any fiscal impact to the state.¹

¹ Ballistic fingerprinting, which provides a means of tracing guns involved in crimes, has been in use for a number of years by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Currently, Maryland and New York have firearms databases with 12,400 and 20,973 entries respectively.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB-53

***AN ACT CONCERNING A FIREARM BALLISTIC IDENTIFICATION
DATA BANK.***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 4