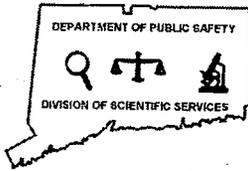




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Leonard C. Boyle
Commissioner

Andrew R. Crumbie, Esq.
Executive Assistant

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

March 24, 2006

RB 5841 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CRIMINAL PENALTY COMMISSION AND CONCERNING THE RETENTION OF FINGERPRINTS

The Department of Public Safety supports section 2 of this bill.

Section 2 of this bill allows the State Police Bureau of Identification to maintain the fingerprints of persons received pursuant to sections 29-12 and 29-17a of the general statutes in an electronic format in lieu of a paper format. Section (b) provides specific authority to destroy the paper copy of such fingerprints whenever the bureau converts fingerprints contained in its files from a paper format to an electronic format.

There will be over 100 AFIS (Automatic Fingerprint Identification System) "Live Scan" devices being utilized for fingerprints by the end of this year. The Bureau of Identification processed 127,078 paper fingerprint cards in 2005. This number included electronic cards that had to be printed out for further processing. Our personnel can file approximately 50 cards per hour. The cost for filing 127,078 cards at approximately \$28.00 per hour is approximately \$71,00.00.

In addition to the cost of filing the cards, there is a cost for storage as well. A filing cabinet holds approximately 25,000 fingerprint cards. To store last year's cards, we would need an additional 5 cabinets at approximately \$1200.00 each.

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Section 2 of HB 5841 allows for the destruction of paper fingerprint cards whenever they are scanned into the AFIS system. It should be noted that the fingerprint scanner used for this purpose is a 1,000 dpi high resolution scanner.

With this change, Section 29-15 of the general statutes, the "return of fingerprints statute" will need to be amended as to reflect the fact that paper prints will no longer be kept and therefore cannot be returned. When an arrest is expunged for any reason the agency should simply follow the same procedure the FBI follows, which is to destroy all cards. Return of cards is very costly and unnecessary. Our system could be programmed to automatically expunge these arrests from our files eliminating manual intervention. This change would also allow us to clean up our files of old expunged arrests and fingerprint cards which will free up space in the CCH (Connecticut Criminal History database).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard C. Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Leonard C. Boyle
COMMISSIONER