

Connecticut Association of Prosecutors

*Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing 3-12-06*

TO: MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FROM: CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTORS
DATE: MARCH 12, 2006

RE: SUPPORT FOR RB: 617 – AN ACT CONCERNING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING REGARDING THE PENSIONS OF ASSISTANT STATE’S ATTORNEYS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT STATE’S ATTORNEYS AND JUVENILE PROSECUTORS

The Connecticut Association of Prosecutors is an organization made up of the 250 prosecutors who work for the Division of Criminal Justice and in the criminal courthouses throughout the state.

- Last session, the Appropriations Committee raised a bill (Senate Bill 1320) that would have included the state prosecutors (their official titles are assistant state’s attorney, deputy assistant state’s attorney and juvenile prosecutor) to the list of state employees who receive “Hazardous Duty” pensions. A hazardous duty pension is a specialized law enforcement pension that provides an improved annual pension benefit to recognize the dangers and drawbacks of working in law enforcement. The prosecutors would have been added to the hazardous duty statute—section 5-192f—along with other law enforcement officials with whom they work on a daily basis, including: state police officers, corrections officers, criminal justice inspectors and parole officers.
- During the March 18, 2005 Public Hearing on SB 1320, several interested parties suggested that the prosecutors could pursue a hazardous duty pension through collective bargaining negotiations rather than be added to the hazardous duty statute (*e.g., please see OPM’s written testimony, copy attached*). The prosecutors are certainly willing to pursue this issue in the future through collective bargaining negotiations.
- The proposed bill requires the employer of the prosecutors—the Division of Criminal Justice—to agree to collectively bargain the issue of the pensions as part of future contract negotiations, and specifically states that nothing in the bill shall be construed to require the state to grant a different pension benefit to the prosecutors. The bill only grants the ability to have the issue of pensions negotiated by the employees and the employer.

For these reasons the Connecticut Association of Prosecutors urges you to **SUPPORT RB 617**.