

Testimony in Support of Proposed Bill No. 5686

**An Act Concerning the Appointment of State Marshals as Special
Policemen in Child Support Matters.**

My name is Lisa H. Stevenson, I am CT State Marshal – I am also a member of the State Marshals Advisory Board and have been elected by my peers to sit as an ex-officio member of the State Marshals Commission. I am here today to testify on behalf of all the Connecticut State Marshals in Support of Proposed Bill No. 5686

As you may be aware when the system changed from ‘Deputy Sheriff’ to “State Marshal” there was many issues that did not get address in the statues – We are now trying to amended those statues as they come to light. We lost the ability to have many tools when the State chose to recognize us as “independent contractors” vs ‘appointed official’.

Picking up dead beat parents is a revenue generator for the State – yet we lack the tools and access to many venues that would make this process more beneficial.

Below are some fact and figures as to why this bill is so important to the children of this state. This will be our second attempt to get this bill passed. From September to February the Capias Warrant Unit arrested over 500 dead beat parents – The average of all that work lead to about 500,000.00 back to state after cost. The unit had to rely on local Police Departments to run our warrants be fore each sweep. While we are grateful to these departments we feel if we had the tools to research we would have been more productive.

- 29-1g allows for 4 DSS special police with state police powers.
- The 4 officer's salaries, benefits and equipment cost the state around \$400,000.00 each year and make less than 100 arrests a year. They work alone and only 8am-4pm 5 days a week. As special state police they have access to tools and information that state marshals do not, including COLLECT and NCIC.
- The state marshals could arrest 830 people (\$480 x 830) for the same amount of money.
- The state marshals have arrested almost 500 people in the last 4 months of 2006.
- Currently SESU has to do the locate investigations on the defendants due to the fact that the state marshals do not have access to the information.
- Having special state police powers would allow specific state marshals access to information including DMV, COLLECT and NCIC so there would be less reliance on SESU to locate defendants.
- It would also help the state marshals in statewide communications (state marshals currently have no standardized access to police departments in case of emergency or reliable communication among team members) with possible access to the state wide police radio system.
- The special state police powers would be limited to only the few marshals (currently less than 25) that are trained and that regularly execute capias. The state marshal commission would have to nominate each marshal for the commissioner of public safety to appoint.
- State marshals already have state wide arrest powers and having special state police powers would enhance this so they may have the proper tools to do the job.
- Other officers that are appointed special state police include:
 1. 29-18a Public Assistance Fraud
 2. 29-18b Department of Revenue services
 3. 29-18c Department of Special Revenue
 4. 29-19 Utility and Transportation Companies
 5. 29-20 Armored Car Guards
 6. 29-21 War Industries Premises
 7. 29-22 Volunteer Auxiliary Force

Old Bill Text

Sec. 29-1g. Child support enforcement. Special policemen. The Commissioner of Public Safety may appoint not more than four persons nominated by the Commissioner of Social Services as special policemen in the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement of the Department of Social Services for the service of any warrant or *capias mittimus* issued by the courts on child support matters. Such appointees, having been sworn, shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Public Safety and, during such tenure, shall have all the powers conferred on the state policemen and state marshals.

Changes to bill

Sec. 29-1g. Child support enforcement. Special policemen. (a) The Commissioner of Public Safety may appoint not more than four persons nominated by the Commissioner of Social Services as special policemen in the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement of the Department of Social Services for the service of any warrant or *capias mittimus* issued by the courts on child support matters. Such appointees, having been sworn, shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Public Safety and, during such tenure, shall have all the powers conferred on the state policemen and state marshals.

(b) The Commissioner of Public Safety may appoint any state marshal nominated by the State Marshal Commission as special policemen for the service of any warrant or *capias mittimus* issued by the courts. Such appointees, having been sworn, shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Public Safety and the State Marshal Commission and, during such tenure, shall have all the powers conferred on the state policemen.

Proposed Changes to Sec. 6-38b

Sec. 6-38b (a)(3) Delete last sentence beginning with "No member..... And ending withthe commission.

Add new (4) **The Marshals Advisory Board shall appoint two State Marshals to the State Marshal Commission.**

Proposed Changes to Sec. 6-38

Sec. 6-38c (a) Delete "one year" in last sentence and substitute **three years**

Sec. 6-38c (b) Delete entire section and substitute as follows:

Sec.6-38c (b) On or after July 1, 2007 the State Marshals Advisory Board shall designate a date and time for each county to elect State Marshals from their respective counties to serve on the State Marshals Advisory Board pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. All State Marshals in their respective counties shall receive at least two weeks notice(by mail from the Commission Office) of the date and time and place of the election. The names of the State Marshals elected in each county shall be forwarded to the offices of the State Marshal Commission. The term of office shall be three years.

New (c) The State Marshals Advisory Board shall meet and appoint two of its members to the State Marshal Commission. If any vacancy occurs on the Commission, the State Marshals Advisory Board shall appoint a one of its members to fill the unexpired term in accordance with the provisions of this Section. The State Marshals Advisory Board may adopt such rules as it deems necessary for the conduct of its internal affairs.