



**State of Connecticut**  
**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

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**Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice**

*In Support of:*

**S.B. No. 1239 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INVESTIGATIVE SUBPOENAS**

*Joint Committee on Judiciary – March 16, 2007*

The Division of Criminal Justice respectfully requests the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for S.B. No. 1239, An Act Concerning Investigative Subpoenas. This bill is one of the highest priorities in the Division's 2007 Legislative Recommendations to the General Assembly.

This bill would allow state prosecutors, under limited circumstances and with the strict supervision and approval of the court, to issue subpoenas to compel testimony or the production of documents in criminal investigations. Again, it must be stressed that the bill would be limited to specific investigations of serious crimes where current investigative tools are insufficient and with the strict oversight by the court.

The Division of Criminal Justice has long sought legislation similar to S.B. No. 1239. The need for either investigative subpoena power or a more workable investigatory grand jury system has existed for many years.

The Division of Criminal Justice has a constitutional responsibility to investigate and prosecute all criminal matters in the State of Connecticut. Our job is to pursue justice on behalf of our State and its people. Yet we are hampered in our ability to fulfill this constitutional duty due to the lack of adequate investigative tools.

The Division is well aware of the concerns that have been raised in the past with regard to the concept of investigative subpoenas. We are also aware of the suggestion by some that an alternate approach would be to revise the investigatory grand jury system provided for in Chapter 54 of the general statutes. As such, the Division is prepared to submit language outlining possible revisions to the grand jury system should the Committee wish to consider that option.

In conclusion, the Division of Criminal Justice respectfully recommends the Committee's Joint Favorable Report of S.B. No. 1239, or, in the alternative, the Committee's Joint Favorable Substitute Report with appropriate language to provide adequate investigative tools through the investigatory grand jury system.

We would be happy to provide any additional information that the Committee might require or to answer any questions that you might have.

Thank you.