



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice

In Support of:

**H.B. No. 7383 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PERSISTENT FIREARMS
OFFENDERS**

Joint Committee on Judiciary – April 10, 2007

The Division of Criminal Justice respectfully requests the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for H.B. No. 7383, An Act Concerning Persistent Firearms Offenders. This bill is one of the Legislative Recommendations to the General Assembly from the Division of Criminal Justice. It was recommended by prosecutors who work on the front lines of the criminal justice system dealing with these cases day in and day out. The bill gives the State the tools needed to deal more effectively with the ever-growing problem of the use of firearms in our society, particularly in urban areas.

- Section 1 establishes enhanced penalties for persons who are repeat offenders of crimes involving the use or possession of firearms. It allows courts to impose the sentence for the next most serious degree of felony when a person is convicted of a second offense involving the use or possession of a firearm. It further provides a mandatory minimum sentence of two years for any person convicted as a persistent firearms offender.
- Section 2 establishes enhanced penalties for persons convicted on multiple occasions of carrying a pistol without a permit. It provides that for a second or subsequent offense a person may be imprisoned for up to ten years, with a mandatory minimum sentence of two years, and be fined not more than five thousand dollars.
- Section 3 reclassifies Criminal Possession of a Firearm as a class C felony for a first offense and provides that a second or subsequent offense is a class B felony with a five-year mandatory minimum sentence.
- Section 4 reclassifies Criminal Possession of a Pistol or Revolver as a class C felony for a first offense and a class B felony for a second or subsequent offense.

The Division respectfully requests the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for H.B. No. 7383. Increasing the penalties for individuals who continually use firearms to commit crimes will send a message that such conduct will not be tolerated. We would be happy to provide any additional information the Committee might require or to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you.