

***Testimony of Anthony Pizighelli***

***President IBPO Local 731***

***Labor Committee***

***February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007***

***Senate Bill -1291***

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Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

First let me thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today.

I am Anthony Pizighelli, President of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 731. We represent over 700 Judicial Marshals within the State of Connecticut.

I am here today to speak on Senate Bill 1291, which is actually a continuation of legislation passed last year as Public Act 06-07. Public Act 06-07 (attached hereto at Tab 1) held that the exclusive bargaining representatives for the judicial marshals bargaining units, IBPO and CSEA, shall meet with representatives of the office of the Comptroller to discuss the purchase of retirement credit in the state employees retirement system by individuals currently employed by the state as judicial marshals for such individuals' prior state service as special deputy sheriffs. We did meet with representatives from the comptroller's office and worked with them to establish the correct number of employees who could potentially purchase past service credit.

In the past it was though those 700 employees would be eligible to purchase retirement credit, the comptroller's office had a list of over 500 employee names to purchase retirement credit. The actual number in December of 2006 was

approximately 245 employees, including (7) Supervisors and (4) Chief Judicial Marshals, this number, along with the names, dates of hire and ages, was provided to the Comptrollers office and an actuary study was to be completed by their staff. An actuary report was to be generated, unfortunately there was a miscommunication along the way and the actuary calculated the cost of buying the time in two (2) and (4) year increments only. To date we have, unfortunately, been unsuccessful in compelling the Comptrollers office to calculate the cost to the employee and the state to accurately reflect the cost of unfunded liability to the State and the cost to the employee. *THE Comptroller is currently Re-calculating the cost of this Bill.*

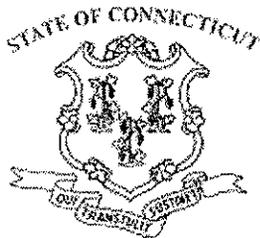
We believe the annual unfunded liability to the State is actually less than two million dollars. This is based on the number of employees eligible, the time periods involved, and the ability of the employee to actually purchase the time.

This bill had a lot of support last year and we believe that support exists today, and by granting us the ability to obtain service credit for time worked as a Special Deputy Sheriff's will allow so many people, who have dedicated their lives to serving the people of Connecticut, to retire with a reasonable pension and health care

In an effort to respect my allotted time, I will close by thanking you for granting me the time to speak today; I ask you all not only for your support today but that you continue to support this bill throughout the course of its life and help us assure it is passed into law.

I will gladly take any questions you may have.

Anthony Pizighelli  
President  
IBPO Local 731



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 219**

**Special Act No. 06-7**

**AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR JUDICIAL MARSHALS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The exclusive bargaining representatives for the judicial marshal bargaining units shall meet with representatives of the office of the Comptroller to discuss the purchase of retirement credit in the state employees retirement system by individuals currently employed by the state as judicial marshals for such individuals' prior state service as special deputy sheriffs, including any costs to the state associated with such purchase. On or before January 1, 2007, the Comptroller shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees summarizing the results of such discussions.

Approved June 6, 2006