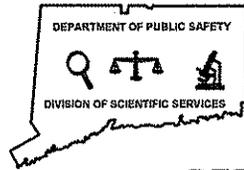




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Leonard C. Boyle
Commissioner

Andrew R. Crumbie, Esq.
Executive Assistant

Rep. Kevin Ryan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Edith Prague, Co-Chairman
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

February 15, 2007

SB 1049 AAC COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OF THE MERIT SYSTEM

The Department of Public Safety opposes this bill.

This proposed bill would make the merit system for appointment and promotion of classified state employees subject to collective bargaining. Passage of this bill would result in the following being subject to collective bargaining:

1. eligibility for examinations,
2. type and content of examinations
3. how examinations are scored
4. how resulting lists are used by agencies in making appointments and promotions.

Procedurally, this would significantly expand the scope, complexity and probable duration of collective bargaining. Implementation would lead to significant delays in filling positions. This could also lead to a system where seniority is the sole or major factor in promotional decisions, and the selection of candidates other than those best qualified. The legitimacy and value of the tests themselves would be questionable. If employees who have not served in the position are allowed to form questions for the promotional process they are applying for, how does this create an exam process addressing the needs of the agency and the state? The act appears to imply that those who are testing for a higher position already know what the positions encompasses, what the agency needs, and who the best persons for that position are.

The hiring and promotion of state troopers are among the most important public safety decisions the state makes. The criteria for those decisions should be merit based with the underlying value being who will best serve the public safety needs of the State of Connecticut. Those needs are too important to make them subject to bargaining.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard C. Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Leonard C. Boyle
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety