



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

*John A. Danaher III*  
Commissioner

*Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion*  
Chief of Staff

March 12, 2008

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

## **SB 625 AN ACT REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF A HOME INVASION OR RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

### ***The Department of Public Safety raises concerns about this bill.***

This bill would require that when any sworn member of a local police department determines that a home invasion or burglary of a dwelling has occurred, such department shall notify all persons residing within a one-half mile of such dwelling. As a preliminary matter, there is some question as to whether the intent is to enact the mandate only as to municipal departments or if requiring such notice by resident troopers or the state police as a whole might be anticipated. In any case the committee should be aware that the Connecticut State Police already conduct neighborhood canvasses when a burglary occurs. These canvasses cover numerous homes but do not usually extend to a half mile.

If a mandatory statutory notice of homes up to a half mile radius is enacted, the following concerns arise:

1. Who will measure out the distance?
2. If actual notice only extends to a quarter of a mile, or if the officer misses a house or the notification is not timely will this be a violation or raise liability issues?

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3. Is the distance measured by the road distance or by how the crow flies?
4. Will busy troops and municipal departments have the time or the manpower to do this? There could be hundreds of houses in a development or several apartment complexes within the radius.
5. What happens if the burglary is at a college campus with multiple dormitories?
6. If the person is not home will the officer have to go back each time so the person that resides in that residence is notified?
7. Some burglaries or home invasions are committed by persons known to the victims. Will this process unnecessarily panic neighbors by advising them of the burglary?
8. If the suspects are arrested at the time of the burglary (at the scene or leaving the scene etc.) are officers still obligated to make the notifications?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John A. Danaher III  
COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety