

**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**  
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009  
Hartford Connecticut

Members of the Committee:

I would ask that you **OPPOSE S. B. No. 839 AN ACT CONCERNING MERGERS AND CONSOLIDATIONS OF VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES and H. B. No. 6375 AN ACT CONCERNING REVIEW AND TERMINATION OF CERTAIN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

Both of these bills would eliminate/or consolidate the Firearms Permit Examining Board, putting it under the auspices of the Department of Public Safety.

The intent of the Firearms Permit Examining board was to establish a nonpartisan civilian review board, free from other influences. By moving this board to the Department of Public Safety, you are effectively removing the autonomy of the board, and private citizens will question the ability to receive fair and impartial hearings. The DPS is the agency that revokes or denies firearms permits. It seems very unwise to allow them oversight over their own decisions.

This move was initiated as a "cost saving" measure. In reality, it saves no money. The board will still be required to meet, and require the services of an administrative person. Therefore, the funding will still be necessary in order for the board to function, regardless of whether it remains an independent board, or is moved to another agency.

I feel that this proposed move is an affront to citizens who expect a fair and unbiased investigation, and it borders on unconstitutional. I would urge members of this committee to please reconsider this legislation, and allow the firearms permit examining board to remain intact in its current form.

Sincerely,  
Amy Stegall  
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Stafford Springs CT