

Subject: Oppose SB 839

Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

I am writing to urge your opposition to Senate Bill 839 (An Act Concerning Mergers and Consolidations of Various State Agencies).

I am specifically concerned about the section (Sec. 30) which removes the independence of the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, but does not appear to result in appreciable cost savings. My initial problem with this section was as a gun owner and holder of a State Pistol Permit, but I believe that it raises a broader issue. Efforts to increase government efficiency and decrease bureaucracy are to be applauded, but it is also critical to maintain independent oversight of government functions. This is not idle speculation on my part - I have had experience managing compliance oversight for a very large corporation.

In the current environment, it is essential that government avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest. By implementing Sec. 30 of this bill, no matter how laudable its intent, the perceived integrity of Connecticut's government is diminished.

Please note that I am not criticizing the Department of Public Safety itself. In addition, I hope that the legislature will be cautious about interfering with any independent oversight function. Finally, I would be pleased to discuss this with you further. I am best reached by e-mail at rsachs@optonline.net.

Yours Truly,

Roger M. Sachs
Westport, CT