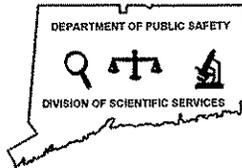


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III  
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion  
Chief of Staff

February 17, 2009

Rep. Kenneth p. Green, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Edwin A. Gomes, Co-Chairman  
Housing Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

## **HB 5583 AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR HOME HEALTH AIDES**

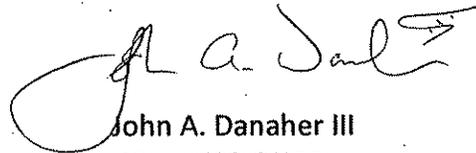
***The Department of Public Safety advises of fiscal impact and other concerns.***

The language of the proposed bill does not specify whether a state criminal records check or a national criminal records check is required. Fees for criminal history records checks are set by statute in CGS 29-11. Federal, state and municipal agencies are exempted from paying these fees. Any state fees collected are deposited in the general fund. If a national criminal history record check is required, there is a separate fee charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Section 29-17a(2) requires other state agencies to reimburse the Department of Public Safety for the federal fees and allows those state agencies to charge the person whose record is checked for this federal fee.

Regardless of whether a state or national check is required, this proposed legislation would increase the workload and may create a need for additional personnel and equipment resources. The agency currently has a backlog of requests for fingerprint and criminal history record searches. Without additional personnel and equipment, current backlogs would increase and ultimately create a risk to public safety.

If a national records check is intended by this proposal, it should be noted that the results of that record check cannot, under FBI rules, be shared directly with the public housing authority. This raises the question of who will determine suitability based on the results of the background check. If the Department of Public Safety is charged with this responsibility, there will be additional fiscal impact to the agency. The department of Public Health licenses home health agencies, but not the home health aides themselves. FBI rule would allow direct sharing of background results with a licensing agency, but there is not presently such a procedure in Connecticut and creation of the same would have additional fiscal impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

John A. Danaher III  
COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety