



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF POLICE OFFICERS

A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS, AFL/CIO

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING, MARCH 26, 2009

PLEASE SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 6252: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF JUDICIAL MARSHALS.

My name is Scott Jeleschiff. I am Connecticut Regional Counsel for the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. The IBPO is one of the largest law enforcement unions in the country, and is proud to represent the 700 plus members of Local 731 – the Connecticut Judicial Marshals.

We would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for raising the issues brought forward in House Bill 6252. As many of you know, there is a great deal of discussion inside and outside of our courthouses about the processes used in the hiring and promotion of Connecticut Judicial Marshals. These issues are not entirely within the scope of the collective bargaining process and as such, we are happy to take this opportunity to discuss the issues of hiring and promotion in the context of existing statutes, C.G.S. sections 6-32d and 6-32f, which are proposed to be amended as part of House Bill 6252.

Quite frankly, the existing members of Local 731 would be hard-pressed to complain about the existing hiring, or lack of hiring policies and protocol, in place when they came onboard. It is my understanding that this bill was brought forward not by anyone associated with Local 731, but rather, a job applicant who wanted a better understanding of why he or she wasn't hired. Our existing Marshals are happy to have been hired and are proud to be an essential component of the Judicial Branch.

We do believe, however, that it is reasonable for the Legislature to consider amending the existing statutes to require Judicial Marshal Services to formally establish employment standards and implement appropriate training programs to assure proper and safe prisoner custody, transportation, and courthouse security. It is also important to have these standards published openly so the general public is aware and familiar with the training and qualifications of such a vital group.

Government is becoming more and more transparent with each passing day. This helps create a better educated citizenry, which is in everyone's best interest. This Legislature's proceedings are frequently televised, as are State agency proceedings. We are starting to see Court proceedings on television. House Bill 6252 will help bring Judicial Branch employment in line with this ever-increasing openness.

The Judicial Branch should have publicly available employment and training standards. This information will help those interested in applying for a Judicial Marshal position. Clear standards and testing will help current Marshals understand what is expected of them in order to climb the promotional ladder while assuring that only the most qualified Marshals move forward. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, such information will help members of the public who use our courthouses everyday, and are entitled to the safety and security provided by our Judicial Marshals.

Thank you very much for your consideration of House Bill 6252. Please feel free to contact me anytime at the IBPO's Connecticut Office at (860) 632-9832 with any follow-up questions, concerns, or comments.