

# COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

P.O. Box 2506, Hartford, CT 06146, (203) 245-8076

[www.ctsportsmen.com](http://www.ctsportsmen.com) [ccsct@comcast.net](mailto:ccsct@comcast.net)

Testimony presented to the **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**, February 24, 2009

## **IN OPPOSITION to H.B. No. 6457 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS AND THE LICENSING OF BAIL ENFORCEMENT AGENTS, PROFESSIONAL BONDSMEN AND SURETY BAIL BOND AGENTS**

by Robert T. Crook, Director

**Our Opposition to this bill only relates to Sec. 8. concerning Concealed Carry of Pistols and Revolvers.** Under current law Concealment is NOT a requirement. Passage of this section AS IS will criminalize an inadvertent exposure of a concealed or stored handgun.

The criteria for carrying a handgun has always been "Suitability" and interpreted: It is OK to carry open while hunting, at a range, etc, It is unsuitable to carry open in a bank or bar. Common sense.

Police enforcement however has been diverse because of no specific language. Based upon the interpretation of the officer, charges of Threatening or Breach of the Peace were regularly made. In most instances the charges were thrown out, but Revocation of Permit remained. For reinstatement, there is currently a wait of 18 months to appeal to the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners.

This proposal as written only addresses exceptions for Police and Military which solves none of the problems the public encounters due to police interpretation. We submit the following amendment for your consideration which we believe contains common-sense exceptions to concealed carry, provides more specific guidance to enforcement officers or are consistent with current law. Without common-sense exceptions, we must oppose the proposed bill.

(c) (1) Any person carrying a pistol or revolver upon his or her person in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall conceal such pistol or revolver.

(2) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the carrying of any pistol or revolver by any parole officer or peace officer of this state, or parole officer or peace officer of any other state while engaged in the pursuit of official duties, or federal marshal or federal law enforcement agent, or to any member of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 27-103, or of this state, as defined in section 27-2, when on duty or going to or from duty [.], OR TO ANY MEMBER OF ANY MILITARY ORGANIZATION WHEN ON PARADE OR WHEN GOING TO OR FROM ANY PLACE OF ASSEMBLY, OR TO ANY PERMIT HOLDER WHILE ON THE PREMISES OF A TARGET RANGE OF A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CLUB OR ORGANIZATION WHICH INCLUDES IN ITS PURPOSE THE PRACTICE OF SHOOTING AT TARGETS, OR WHILE ON A BUSINESS TARGET RANGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRACTICING SHOOTING, OR BY ANY PERMIT HOLDER WHILE IN HIS OR HER HOME, BUSINESS OR ON HIS OR HER PROPERTY, OR WHILE HUNTING.

(3) THE INADVERTANT OR UNINTENTIONAL EXPOSURE OF A FIREARM, OR USED IN AN ACT OF SELF DEFENSE SHALL NOT BE GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION OF A PERSONS PERMIT TO CARRY PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS.

(4) VEHICLULAR TRAVEL BY A PERMIT HOLDER SHALL NOT REQUIRE SUCH PISTOL OR REVOLVER REMAIN ON THE PERSON.

Thank you.