



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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**Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety
Submitted March 3, 2009 by
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Legislative Co-Chairs
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Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Good Morning. We are here representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), to testify on a number of Bills.

- 1. R.B. No. 985, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AUTOMATED VEHICLE INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM.** CPCA supports this Bill, as it would aid law enforcement officers in identifying motor vehicles that are being operated in violation without proper insurance.
- 2. R.B. No. 986, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCLOSURE OF A POLICE OFFICER'S ADDRESS ON A TOWN'S GRAND LIST.** CPCA supports this Bill, as it would specifically prohibit municipal assessors or board of assessors from publicly disclosing the name and residential address of a sworn member of a municipal police department or a sworn member of the state police.
- 3. R.B. No. 1007, AN ACT REGULATING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCHES.** CPCA supports this Bill.
- 4. R.B. No. 1010, AN ACT CONCERNING EXPOSURE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.** CPCA supports this Bill, as we believe that should emergency service organization personnel come in contact with a patient/person who has been diagnosed with an infectious disease, the organization as well as the individual should be notified.
- 5. R.B. No. 6562, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POLICE OFFICER TRAINING FACILITY.** CPCA supports this Bill, as it is long overdue. Other than the skid pan at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, we really do not have an adequate driver's training facility. Our instructors over the years have been very innovative with providing our recruit officers with training. We have used vacant stretches of highway, airports and a test facility in Colchester to accomplish this goal. CPCA is, however, also aware of the financial condition of the State and urges that if this is not possible this year, at some point in the future, it be considered.

6. **R.B. No. 6563, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF MISSING PERSONS REPORTS.** CPCA opposes this Bill. Last year, CPCA, as well as the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) were requested initially by the Co-Chair of the Judiciary Committee and the Co-Chair of this committee and eventually through a public act 07-151 to develop a policy concerning the acceptance of missing person reports by law enforcement agencies and their response to said reports. This was accomplished by POST and disseminated to all law enforcement agencies as required by the public act. As a result of a survey conducted by POST, all law enforcement agencies in the State of Connecticut have adopted, at a minimum, the POST guidelines for handling missing person investigations and reports. A lot of hard work went into the preparation of these guidelines that are now presently taught in each recruit training class, as well as to in-service training sessions of veteran officers. CPCA opposes this legislation as costly and unnecessary. For your information, we are providing a copy of the POST guidelines and, as you will see, this matter is thoroughly covered within this document. In addition, utilizing the AMBER ALERT system for non-abductions dilutes the value of the system. Other states that have diminished their requirements, have found that, as a result, citizens are ignoring the alert messages. Also, this is a protocol that was agreed upon and ultimately approved by the Connecticut Broadcasters Association of which governs the use of the alert on radio and television. CPCA again urges your opposition to this proposal.

7. **R.B. No. 6564, AN ACT CONCERNING A PERMIT FOR THE SALE AND CARRYING OF ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS.** CPCA opposes this Bill, as it is not the legislation that was initially drafted. We are suggesting that this Bill be redrafted to allow for the issuance of a State Permit to Carry by the local Chief of Police, or appropriate person, as defined by law. Prior to the dangerous permit process being repealed, this was the process for the issuance of said permit. We believe that this can be accomplished in the manner of which we have suggested and meet the goals of public safety. Once again, we would be happy to meet with those persons responsible for redrafting this legislation and work with them.