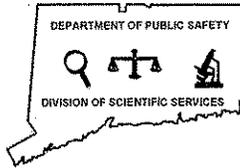


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

Rep. Joseph C. Serra, Co-Chairman
Sen. Edith G. Prague, Co-Chairman
Select Committee on Aging
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

January 27, 2009

HB 5312 AAC CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR EMPLOYEES OF HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCIES

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

This proposed bill would replace the current language of the statute requiring a "comprehensive background check" (which is undefined in the statute) with language requiring a fingerprint based criminal history records check pursuant to section 29-17a. 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 homemaker companion agency. This raises the question of who will determine suitability based on the results of the background check. If either the Department of Public Safety or the Department of Consumer Protection is charged with this responsibility, there will be additional fiscal impact to that agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Davoren". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Thomas Davoren
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

