



# *Town of Stafford*

## *Connecticut*

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**Allen L. Bacchiochi**  
First Selectman

**Michael D. Waugh**  
**Richard P. Dobson, Sr.**

**RE: HB 6363 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET  
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT,  
CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, REGULATION, PROTECTION, JUDICIAL AND  
CORRECTIONS.**

Good Afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Senator Debicella,  
Representative Miner, and members of the Appropriations Committee.

House Bill 6363 is proposed to alter the current Statutes involving the Resident Trooper program. In the current program towns pays 70% percent of all costs associated with troopers who are assigned to the town of Stafford. The proposed change states "On and after July 1, 2009, each town shall pay eighty-five per cent of such cost and other expenses. On and after July 1, 2010, each town shall pay one hundred per cent of such cost and other expenses.

This increase would shift the burden onto the tax payers of Stafford. The town of Stafford has suffered greatly during these economic times. The four largest employers Johnson Memorial Hospital, Warren Corporation, Cuno Corporation, and TTM Technologies have furloughed hundreds of employees. Many of these employees reside in the town of Stafford and pay taxes. Under your current budget proposal the town of Stafford would be losing over \$110,000.00 in aid from the State as well as the additional fifteen percent for the resident troopers cost the taxpayers will be burdened with.

Currently, the contract between the State and the municipalities allows for any resident trooper to respond to incidents out of the community they serve. If the taxpayers of Stafford are asked to pay 100% of the costs associated with the resident trooper program would this policy continue?

The town cannot increase the budget to cover these additional costs. The only option would be to have fewer Troopers assigned to Stafford. This could jeopardize public safety as during these difficult economic times realistically more troopers may be needed. With the current Statute, the town reimburses the state 70% of each Trooper. With the pending change, the town will be forced to reduce the numbers of Troopers assigned to Stafford. This would mean that the State would be responsible for 100% of costs associated with that Trooper. I am not convinced that there would be much of a cost savings based on the small communities that utilize the Resident Trooper program.

In closing, as the First Selectman of the Town of Stafford, I oppose the shift of tax burden from the State onto the small community of Stafford. The Town of Stafford has not included this extra 15 % cost increase in our FY 2009-2010 budget; if this bill is passed we will be forced to eliminate at least one trooper and possibly ½ of another trooper.

Sincerely,

*Allen Bacchiochi*

Allen Bacchiochi  
First Selectman