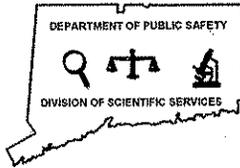




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 24, 2009

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6457 AAC THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS AND THE LICENSING OF BAIL ENFORCEMENT AGENTS, PROFESSIONAL BONDSMEN AND SURETY BAIL BOND AGENTS

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

Section 1 of this bill would modify the existing statute, (Section 29-37g (b),) "Gun show Requirements," to require the gun show promoter to notify the Commissioner of Public Safety within thirty days before commencement of a gun show of the date, time, duration and location of the gun show. This requirement would be in addition to the current requirement that the promoter notify the chief of police, warden of the borough or the first selectman of the town in which the gun show is to take place not later than thirty days before the commencement of the planned gun show. The Department of Public Safety is tasked with the safety and regulation of firearms sales, as well as the issuance of permits to carry pistols or revolvers within Connecticut. The department must be able to determine the eligibility of permit and firearms owners or applicants for the purchase of firearms. Without being notified or aware of planned gun shows, agency personnel are often unavailable to make the proper determinations, to ensure that the laws regarding firearms sales are adhered to, and to offer assistance to the firearms dealers in attendance, as firearms dealers from other states often attend, but are unfamiliar with Connecticut firearms laws, procedures, and the forms they must abide by.

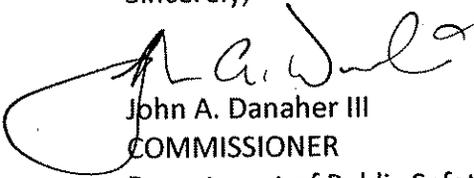
Section 2 of this proposal would mandate annual firearms refresher training for bail enforcement agents, professional bondsmen and surety bail bond agents. This would provide consistency with current statutory firearms training requirements for armed security officers. Section 5 of the proposal would also require DPS approval of instructors who would conduct the currently mandated twenty hour criminal justice training for bail enforcement agents and section 6 would allow for the suspension or revocation of such approval for cause.

Section 3 of the bill makes a change to allow an exception to the statutory prohibition on carrying of dangerous weapons and the sale, carrying and brandishing of facsimile firearms for any person while participating in a qualified production under the auspices of a state-certified production company. Adding such exemptions to existing weapons and facsimile firearms statutes would remove some special effects and firearms legal impediments, making it easier to promote the influx of the movie and film-making industry to conduct business in Connecticut

Section 4 of the bill conforms an existing statute prohibiting carrying a firearm while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug to .08 standard. Statute prohibiting carrying a firearm while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug should have same standard as other statutory prohibitions in order to provide consistency between this statute and similar legal limits for determining intoxication.

Section 8 of the bill provides clarification and removes any ambiguity in the statutes regarding the carrying of pistols. It is not currently specifically stated in the statutes that a person carrying a pistol on his or her person shall conceal it. There are appropriate law enforcement exceptions in the proposed language.

Sincerely,



John A. Danaher III

COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety