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Conservation & Development

Testimony by Senator Bob Duff

**PROPOSED BILL 680, AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION  
FOR STATE TROOPERS**

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

To: The Hon. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Steve Dargan, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Eileen Daily, Vice Chairman, The Hon. Ed Jutila, Vice Chairman, The Hon. Tony Guglielmo, Ranking Member, The Hon. Jason Perillo, Ranking Member and members of the Public Safety & Security Committee

I would like to thank the members of the Public Safety Committee for hearing PROPOSED BILL 680, AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR STATE TROOPERS. This bill would allow any full-time sworn member of the Division of State Police to attend courses at regional community colleges at no cost, providing there is space available and there is no cost to the college.

Continuing education is vital to employee development and to a competent, knowledgeable workforce. Employees who have an investment in their employment, particularly through skill development, tend to be happier, better employees and therefore provide better service and a higher level of commitment to their employers. State police officers will be more effective with the public, better able to provide for the public's safety, and more aware of security issues if they invest in continuous training. In this age of terrorists, religious wars, and security breaches, it is incumbent upon those entrusted with our public safety to stay abreast of the latest threats and security enhancements in order to offer real protection to our citizens.

I respectfully urge the committee to give this legislation every consideration. Thank you for this opportunity and please feel free to contact my office at 240-0414 if you have any questions.