



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 653**

February Session, 2010

Substitute Senate Bill No. 216

*Senate, April 28, 2010*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES BY MUNICIPALITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) No municipal corporation shall employ private detectives in the  
4 investigation or detection of crime at an expense of more than [five  
5 hundred] two thousand dollars unless (1) a specific appropriation  
6 therefor has been made, [nor unless] (2) the authorities [thereof] of  
7 such municipal corporation have first applied to the [state police]  
8 Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety for  
9 assistance in such investigation and waited a reasonable time for said  
10 [state police] division to act, and (3) the authorities of such municipal  
11 corporation have given written notice of the hiring of such private  
12 detectives not less than seven business days prior to such hiring to (A)  
13 the police chief of the municipality, if applicable, (B) the Division of

14 State Police within the Department of Public Safety, and (C) the state's  
15 attorney for the judicial district in which the municipality is located.

16 (b) Any municipal official who violates any provision of subsection  
17 (a) of this section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and  
18 shall be liable to such municipality in a civil action for the amount  
19 expended in excess of such sum as has been appropriated for such  
20 investigation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2010	7-283

**PS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** See Below***Explanation***

The bill would allow any municipality to increase, from \$500 to \$2,000, the amount it expends to employ private detectives, without a specific appropriation. It is anticipated that any resulting additional minimal costs will only be undertaken to the extent local resources allow.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** See Above

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 216*****AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES BY MUNICIPALITIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from \$500 to \$2,000, the amount a town can spend without a specific appropriation to employ a private detective to investigate a crime. The bill prohibits a town from spending more than \$2,000 unless:

1. a specific appropriation is made;
2. the town authorities have first applied to the State Police for assistance in the investigation and waited a reasonable time for them to act; and
3. at least seven business days before hiring a private detective, the municipal authorities give written notice of the hiring to (a) the town's police chief, if applicable; (b) the State Police; and (c) the state's attorney for the judicial district in which the town is located.

Current law requires the town authorities to contact the State Police for assistance in the investigation and wait a reasonable time for them to act before spending more than \$500 to hire a private detective.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2010

**BACKGROUND*****Legislative History***

The Senate referred the bill (File 338) to the Public Safety and

Security Committee, which reported a substitute. The substitute bill adds the provision about giving written notice. It also restores the provision in current law about contacting the State Police and waiting for them to act before hiring a private detective, which the original bill eliminated.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/22/2010)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 2 (04/20/2010)