

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Peter Kuck and I am a member of the Board of Firearms Permit examiners (BPFE). In the name of full disclosure I am also one of the individuals who have filed a Civil Rights suit against the Department of Public Safety.

Specific Concerns

I am in opposition to Governor's Bill No. 28 (An Act Consolidating and eliminating Certain Legislative Commissions). I am outraged by the Governors attempt once again to destroy the independence of the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners by removing the language [for administrative purposes only,] from Section 1.subsection(a) of section 29-32b of the General Statutes.

The Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (BPFE) is a civilian review board with authority over the Department of Public Safety in matters relating to pistol permit denials and revocations. The Boards authority to oversee the actions of the department of Public Safety resides in sec.29-32b (b) and I quote "Any person aggrieved by any refusal to issue or renew a permit or certificate under the provisions of section 29-28 or 29-36f, or by any limitation or revocation of a permit or certificate issued under any of said sections, or by a refusal or failure of any issuing authority to furnish an application as provided in section 29-28a, may, within ninety days after receipt of notice of such refusal, limitation or revocation, or refusal or failure to supply an application as provided in section 29-28a, and without prejudice to any other course of action open to such person in law or in equity, appeal to the board. On such appeal the board shall inquire into and determine the facts, de novo, and unless it finds that such a refusal, limitation or revocation, or such refusal or failure to supply an application, as the case may be, would be for just and proper cause, it shall order such permit or certificate to be issued, renewed or restored, or the limitation removed or modified, as the case may be."

Placing the Board under DPS would be a conflict of interest and turn any civilian review of the Department of Public safety into a bad joke. There are no savings of money here since the Board has less than a \$82,000 budget supporting a paid staff of 1 and 7 unpaid volunteers.

I ask you to consider if there could ever be a good reason to remove Civilian control and oversight from the Department of Public Safety.

Why this entire Bill should be killed.

This is a repeat of the bad legislation (Governors Bill No. 839 [An Act Concerning Mergers and Consolidation of Various State Agencies] that was brought before you last year. This bill would destroy or limit the oversight power of the Boards and Commissions that this legislature has put in place to defend the citizens of our State from the over reach of the executive branch.

Consideration should also be given to the impacts this bill will have on: the Commission on Aging, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Children, the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the African-American Affairs Commission, and the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission.

Thank You

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