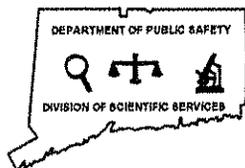




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III  
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion  
Chief of Staff

February 18, 2010

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

**HB 5158 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS**

***The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.***

Section 1 of this bill 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 4 of the proposal would also require Department of Public Safety approval of instructors who would conduct the currently mandated twenty hour criminal justice training for bail enforcement agents.

Section 2 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 3 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 11 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 and not in place of 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.

The bill also adds a date and place of birth requirement for the receipt required by C.G.S. 29-33. Federal procedural regulations have been re-defined for the National Instant Background System (NICS), which is now requiring the place of birth for every firearm sale transaction.

The bill would also clarify that anyone prohibited by a court order from possessing a firearm (for example conditions of probation imposed by the court) that is found to be in non-compliance may be subject to the offense of criminal possession of a firearm

Sincerely,



John A. Danaher III  
COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety