



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice

**H.B. No. 5229 (RAISED) An Act Concerning Law Enforcement
Reporting of the Service of Alcohol to Minors**

*Joint Committee on General Law
February 23, 2010*

The Division of Criminal Justice strongly supports the intention of H.B. No. 5229, *An Act Concerning Law Enforcement Reporting of the Service of Alcohol to Minors*, which is to provide for the reporting to the Department of Consumer Protection of the sale of alcohol to minors.

However, the Division has serious concerns about the applicability of the bill as written in that the one-week deadline for reporting may not be practical and may raise unintended legal issues. Specifically, criminal investigations are conducted confidentially for a number of reasons, including the fact that they deal with allegations that may or may not be proven.

Further, the Division does not believe this bill is necessary because of the strong support that already exists in the law enforcement community for what the bill intends to accomplish - to fully utilize the regulatory functions of the Department of Consumer Protection in cases where the illegal sale of alcohol to minors occurs. The law enforcement community - from the municipal police departments to the Connecticut State Police and our prosecutors - fully recognize and respect the responsibilities and roles of the Department of Consumer Protection. We believe that all of the agencies involved are already working together, which is what this bill envisions.

In conclusion, the Division would respectfully request that the Committee take no action on H.B. No. 5229 both in recognition of the strong cooperative enforcement efforts that already exist and to assure against unintended legal consequences that could jeopardize a criminal investigation and prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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