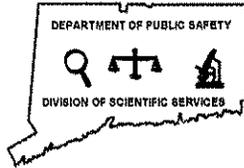


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 23, 2010

Rep. Jim Shapiro, Co-Chairman
Sen. Thomas A. Colapietro, Co-Chairman
General Law Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 5229 AN ACT REQUIRING LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING OF THE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS

The Department of Public Safety expresses concerns about bill.

This proposed bill would require law enforcement officials to report to the Department of Consumer Protection, within one week of their start, investigations regarding the serious injury or death of a person under twenty-one years of age who has been served alcohol by a person holding a permit to sell liquor. The agency recognizes and appreciates the very positive intentions behind this bill, but suggests that, in view of the bill's potential to adversely affect criminal investigations, it would be better to attempt to address the bill's valid, underlying concerns in an administrative setting.

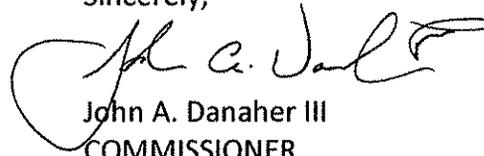
Passage of this bill would create a conflict with the agency's obligations to the state's attorney. As a matter of practice, the Department of Public Safety does not disclose the status of investigations to third parties prior to a prosecutive decision being made by the state's attorney.

Notification within a week of the commencement of an investigation would require the disclosure of the existence of a criminal investigation at a time when no substantive information can be released. For example, it takes six weeks, alone, to obtain toxicology results.

The Department of Public Safety is of the understanding that it cooperates and communicates effectively with the Department of Consumer Protection. If there are any problems that need to be remedied in this regard, the agency is more than willing to work with legislators and the Department of Consumer Protection to effect any necessary improvements.

In summary, and especially because this bill, if enacted, could adversely affect criminal prosecutions, the agency believes that passage of this bill is not in the best interest of public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety