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Testimony to the Judiciary Committee
March 19, 2010

Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

For the most part, we approve of **RB #5522, AAC Juvenile Matters**. The JJPOCC legislative subcommittee, on which CPCA is represented, has been working on for months to address unintended consequences of the language in Public Act 09-07 of the June Special Session. Sections 7 through 14 of this bill are the result.

Section 7 amends some juvenile-related definitions. Improvements include:

- Ensuring consequences for failure to appear or violation of probation in delinquency matters.
- Clarifying and simplifying the handling of traffic offenses and accidents by letting adult court handle all Title 14 violations by 16-year-old drivers (rather than just Chapter 248).
- Adding to the list of serious juvenile offenses Assault in the 2nd degree with a motor vehicle and misconduct with a motor vehicle (felonies) and dropping the "catch-all" subsection of risk of injury.

Section 8 allows DMV access to records of delinquency convictions on violations which call for administrative sanctions (e.g., possession of alcohol).

Section 9 allows a judge to transfer to Juvenile Matters a traffic offense carrying a jail term, if transfer would better serve the child or the community. Section 11 would ensure that such transfer would not invalidate a legal statement or admission.

Section 10 would require "sight and sound" separation of detained adults and juveniles, consistent with federal requirements.

Sections 12 through 14 extend similar provisions to 17-year-olds in July, 2012.

All of these measures will make juvenile law easier to understand and to apply, and we support them.

Sections 1-6 of this bill are not the product of JJPOCC. Only Section 6 concerns CPCA; it would limit the definition of escape to "escape" to flight from Connecticut Juvenile Training School. Juveniles may be placed by DCF in other state or private facilities; this section would allow one to flee such facilities without consequence. This would be a mistake, and we ask you to strike this section.

We oppose **RB #5521, AAC Child Welfare and the Juvenile Justice System and Erasure Of Juvenile Records**. It would require a court order to put any child in detention, and would expand the cases subject to erasure. Both these measures would increase the workload on police agencies; we therefore object.

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