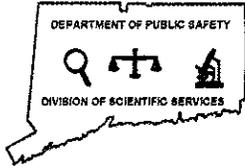


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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Labor and Public Employees Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

February 18, 2010

HB 5061 AN ACT ELIMINATING CREDIT REPORTS AS A BASIS FOR EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS

The Department of Public Safety expresses concerns about vagueness of exceptions.

This bill bans an employer, including the State of Connecticut, from requiring, as a condition of employment, an employee or prospective employee to consent to the creation of a credit report that includes information about his or her (1) credit score; (2) credit payment history; (3) credit, savings, or checking account balances; or (4) savings or checking account numbers. Although the bill provides for exceptions, (the most pertinent being when "such a report is substantially related to the employee's current or potential job."), the standard for the exception is vague and could prevent due diligence when making appointments involving the public trust.

The Department of Public Safety, pursuant to requests from the Governor's Office, conducts background checks for executive and judicial appointments, such as commissioners, deputies, and judges. The background includes information relative to the payment of federal and state taxes, payment of property taxes, child support (if applicable) and a credit check.

It is incumbent upon the executive and legislative branch do their due diligence when making such appointments. It is important to note that not all people with questionable financial histories need to be turned away or denied appointment; credit counseling and ethics training may be appropriate in certain situations.

Sincerely,

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety