



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice

**S.B. No. 216 (RAISED) An Act Concerning the Employment of Private Detectives by
Municipalities**

Joint Committee on Planning and Development
March 1, 2010

It is the understanding of the Division of Criminal Justice that the intent of S.B. No. 216 is to facilitate the retaining of private investigators by municipalities to investigate whether particular students attending public schools in a municipality meet statutory residency requirements. If our understanding is correct, the Division of Criminal Justice believes that the proper means for addressing this concern is through an amendment to an appropriate section of the education statutes dealing with the powers of municipalities and boards of education to address student residency issues and not Chapter 104, which governs municipal police and fire protection.

The Division believes S.B. No. 216 as now written could have potentially unintended ramifications far beyond allowing a municipality or its board of education to hire an investigator to determine if a student lives in the municipality where the student attends public school. Specifically, the Division is concerned with the deletion proposed in lines 6 through 8 of the Raised Bill, which could have the effect of enabling a municipality to circumvent the state police from carrying out their responsibility to investigate criminal activity. If in fact the goal is to investigate student residency issues, the language should be more tightly crafted and moved to a more appropriate section of the statutes.

Should the committee decide to proceed with the bill in its current form, the Division of Criminal Justice would respectfully request that it be amended to require that a municipality notify in writing the police chief of the municipality or the State Police, whichever is applicable, and the State's Attorney for the Judicial District in which the municipality is located of the municipality's intent to hire a private investigator. Further, the Division would ask that such amendment specify that the municipality make such notification at least seven business days prior to the hiring of such private investigator.

Respectfully submitted,

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