



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony to the Judiciary Committee

Monday, April 4, 2011

Chiefs James Strillacci and Anthony Salvatore, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

Regarding S.B. No. 1230, AAC TRAFFIC STOP INFORMATION, we agree that the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act no longer works. In its first two years, police dutifully collected the required data, and the Chief State's Attorney, assisted by OPM and CCSU, published detailed reports. Their conclusions were controversial (because no one knows what percentage of each demographic group violates laws and therefore should be stopped by police), but the statistics were useful.

Since responsibility was shifted to the African-American Affairs Commission, police sent data into a vacuum from which no reports issued. Departments have inquired whether the law is still in effect. Therefore we approve transfer of responsibility to OPM and the CJIS board, who may be better equipped to handle it.

We don't object to data collection. But we caution that the bill's requirement to give the motorist a copy of the form will either require installation of printers in each car (an unfunded mandate), or completion of duplicate paper forms (which will prolong each traffic stop, annoy the motorist, and waste police time).

As to H.B. No. 6641 AAC THE USE OF CREDIT REPORTS IN EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS, we respectfully request an exemption for law enforcement. A credit report may be relevant in determining the integrity or responsibility of a candidate for a position which requires both.