

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins  
Acting Commissioner

March 23, 2011

Rep. Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Eric D. Coleman, Co-Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**SB 1206 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF POLICE ACTIVITY BY THE PUBLIC**

*The Department of Public Safety opposes this bill.*

This bill would impose civil liability on police officers who "interfere" with anyone including the media, attempting to video record any police activity. There is no limitation on the nature of the interference and the liability would be in regard to anyone, including media representatives. Law enforcement functions affected would include processing crime scenes and interviewing witnesses in public areas. This would also include videotaping of deaths or serious injuries before notification to family is made. Videotaping in a crime zone prior to evidence being evaluated and secured may compromise the evidence and subsequent prosecution. Witnesses could be exposed to problems if their pictures or images are obtained by the wrong people or publicized by the news media in papers or on TV.

Police officers need to be able to do their jobs without being subjected to statutory civil liability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Col. Danny R. Stebbins".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

