



State of Connecticut

Police Officer Standards and Training Council Connecticut Police Academy



As chairman of the Police officer Standards & Training Council's Legislative Committee and Executive Director of the Police Officers Standards and Training Council respectively, we write to express our collective opposition to Proposed Bill No. 418 entitled An Act Concerning Recertification of Retired Police Officers.

P.O.S.T. currently has recertification responsibility for approximately eight thousand, two hundred police officers in the state. The entire recertification and audit process is currently the role of a single, very conscientious state employee who works to address the recertification process and its many attendant complexities. The proposal would result in an impossible increase in the volume of work to be performed by this individual as well as impose, on P.O.S.T., a new and unprecedented set of responsibilities involving billing, collections, and auditing of the payments stipulated by the proposed legislation. Presently there is no mechanism or staff in place to perform such a function.

Recertification instruction is provided by both local police departments and by P.O.S.T. directly through the use of staff instructors or via commercial firms through contractual agreements. The complement of staff instructors and support staff at P.O.S.T. has been significantly reduced in recent years as part of a broad cost cutting measure, as has the P.O.S.T. budget for contract commercial instructors.

P.O.S.T.'s recertification classes are frequently oversubscribed resulting in considerable logistical inconvenience to individual officers and their employers seeking to comply with time constraints associated with recertification. Such demand forces P.O.S.T. to repeat costly programs with an indeterminable frequency to meet demand despite shrinking financial resources.

The proposed expansion in the scope of the recertification population will clearly produce a significant financial burden on the state in terms of staff needed to implement and maintain the program as well as a need for additional money to contract with the necessary instructional firms. Classroom space at the state's training academy is also limited and may very well be insufficient as the facility was never designed with the proposed student population in mind.

As the level of staffing, classroom space, and financial resources to support the proposal are all presently insufficient, we urge the committee to reject the proposed legislation.

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