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Public Safety and Security Committee  
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Chairwoman Hartley and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my opposition to S.B. No. 1017, an act concerning in part the consolidation of the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners (BFPE) into the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

I am puzzled as to the need for this act. The BFPE costs the state less than \$100,000 a year to run, moneys that largely pay the salary of one state employee. Surely the renewal fee on pistol permits issued by the state offers a considerable surplus, i.e. the BFPE funds itself and presumably always has. There are more than 150,000 extant permits, each renewed every five years at a cost of \$70 for \$2,100,000 of revenue, and this number is growing. Given the cost increase for the permits the board oversees implemented last year it is even more likely that the pistol permitting program brings in more money than it costs the state to run.

Even if the BPFE is not self sufficient, I question the likelihood of integrating it with the Department of Public Safety offering any cost savings. The board already suffers from a lengthy case backlog. Someone has to manage this backlog, schedule new cases, and keep the files in order. One secretary seems a reasonable expense in this context, eliminating this position would essentially cripple the board's ability to function. Adding to this person's secretarial duties would presumably offer little savings as I assume he or she is already working to the best of their ability.

The true chilling effect of consolidating the BPFE under the DPS would be to eliminate the BPFE's entire reason for being, namely giving citizens a venue for recourse after having their permit denied or revoked by the DPS. If DPS controls the board then the actions of the board hold little force, and it can be expected that the DPS's decision would be final, with no due process of the law. Given the DPS's predilection to propose bills allowing them tighter control of our lawfully owned arms, I would not trust them to exercise this power reasonably.

I implore you to vote against S.B. No. 1017.

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