

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

*Colonel Danny R. Stebbins  
Acting Commissioner*

*Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion  
Chief of Staff*

February 22, 2011

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**SB 1017 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR AMUSEMENT PARK OVERSIGHT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.**

This proposed bill would consolidate the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) into the Department of Public Safety (DPS). There are a number of reasons this makes great common sense and is in the best interest of public safety in the State of Connecticut. From the time of its creation, the DEMHS has lacked the necessary personnel, in particular sworn personnel, to carry out its mission. The assignment of personnel from the DPS has filled this gap, but it makes much more operational sense for DEMHS to be merged into DPS. In addition to the necessary personnel, the DPS also has the infrastructure support mechanism to support the functions of DEMHS. These include IT support, emergency telecommunications, payroll and public information offices, among others. Merging DEMHS into the DPS will provide seamless coordination from policy to incident response for all homeland security and emergency response at a state level, in short for unity of effort and resources.

Passage of this bill will help reduce overhead costs for future years as DPS and DEMHS co-locate facilities and personnel on joint projects. It will also help to maximize grant funding for all projects rather than supporting indirect costs by both agencies.

The DPS has a positive track record in consolidation of state services and transfers of responsibility to ensure the best service to Connecticut residents.

In considering what mergers and government efficiencies are possible in these challenging fiscal times, there is no proposal that stands out as being more natural and making more common sense than returning the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to the Department of Public Safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Col. Danny R. Stebbins".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins  
ACTING COMMISSIONER