

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

IN SUPPORT of Proposed H.B. No. 5643 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS

by Robert T. Crook, Director

02/10/11

This bill establishes standards to designate and/or respond to other states requesting reciprocity and provides determination authority to the Commissioner of Public Safety concerning acceptance of their permit or license to carry pistols or revolvers.

The standards to be met for reciprocity are:

- 21 years of age and has a permit/license in possession;
- Mandatory firearms training that meets or exceeds CT standards;
- Has had a National Criminal History records check prior to issue.

The bill would allow non-residents from states designated reciprocal a 90 day period of legality upon moving to this state to apply for a resident permit.

The basis for the bill is to allow qualified permitted/licensed non-residents to exercise self-protection and to more freely participate in shooting competitions and hunting. Accepting other states activity qualifications is not dissimilar to what we allow for drivers licenses, hunting, boating, and many other licensing activities.

Several other states already recognize CT permits without reciprocal requirements. Connecticut currently recognizes None. Others, several who have queried CSP, require reciprocal agreements.

Qualified individuals who carry firearms, from whatever state, are undeniably the most lawful and peaceful members of the population. Permit holders are honorable, law-abiding people who do not fear a background check, who take pride in their safe gun handling skills, and those in which an extra measure of trust can/is faithfully placed. To treat our fellow citizens rights as less than our own, even when they meet our qualifications, is clearly inappropriate. There is no danger, real or imagined, in permitting law abiding Americans to enjoy the same freedoms in our state that they do in their own. Reciprocity is becoming standard state legislation throughout the nation.

We urge support.