

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

James M. Thomas
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 10, 2011

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

HB 6185 AN ACT CREATING A GUN OFFENDER REGISTRY

The Department of Public Safety questions need for bill and advises of fiscal impact.

This proposed bill would amend the general statutes to (1) require that any person convicted of certain gun crimes register such person's name and address with the local police department in the municipality where such person resides, and renew such registration once per year for a period of five years following such person's release from incarceration or following the date of conviction if such person was not incarcerated; and (2) make any failure to comply with such registration requirements a misdemeanor.

This bill is similar to proposed bill 695, with additional requirements such as maintaining data base of current addresses that would make the registry similar to the sex offender registry.

A requirement to create and maintain a gun offender registry would have significant fiscal impact to the agency and the state. The public safety value of such a registry is questionable as arrest information for persons convicted of firearms offenses can easily be found utilizing the traditional record checks through National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI). In addition, many of these convicted offenders are under the supervision of either parole or probation and, as a consequence, are required to register their addresses, etc. As a rule, parole and probation coordinate with local law enforcement as well.

Costs similar to the implementation of the sex offender registry start up and maintenance should be expected. Much of this responsibility would be conveyed to the local municipalities with DPS continuing responsibility for those towns with Resident Troopers or with primary State Police jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Thomas".
James M. Thomas
COMMISSIONER