

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF SB. No. 967 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR A REVOLVER.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

March 3, 2011

The purpose of this amendment is to create uniform criteria for the issuance of a temporary state permit by municipalities to carry a pistol or revolver.

This bill has been submitted several times with little or no opposition. The original proposal was submitted by a member of the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners.

Although Sec. 29-28 lists various criteria for issuance and many more for denial, there is no standardization of proof of eligibility for citizens or for legal aliens. Currently, DPS is mandating the following documentation for Permits to carry a pistol or revolver on RENEWAL: “Applicants must provide that they are legally and lawfully in the United States, such as a birth certificate, U.S. Passport or Naturalization papers. Legal Alien Residents must provide Alien Registration numbers and 90-day proof of residency.” [Not in law] Passage of this bill would standardize residency criteria at the local level and would negate the current requirement for subsequent documentation on renewal.

Another major problem is that some municipalities are requiring supplemental forms not authorized by the statutes. We have no problem with local authorities undertaking an investigation of the applicant. However, dependent on the municipality, requests for supplemental information including credit reports, medical history, psychiatric evaluations, letters of reference, and other requests invading privacy, are not in accord with statutes. An applicant’s submission for a Permit in those towns is faced with supplying this data under intimidation, or not receiving a permit. Interpretation by municipalities is based upon Sec. 29-29, “No temporary state permit shall be issued if the local authority has reason to believe the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony, or that any other condition exists for which the issuance of a permit for possession of a pistol or revolver is prohibited under state or federal law.” We can think of no other instance where Privacy Rights are so violated.

I have available such Supplemental request forms and will forward to members if requested.

We urge passage.