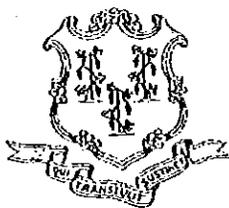


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins  
Acting Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henton  
Chief of Staff

March 9, 2011

Rep. Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Eric D. Coleman, Co-Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**HB 6491 ACT CONCERNING ERASURE OF POLICE RECORDS UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE APPLICABLE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS AND SERVICE OF PROCESS ON CERTAIN POLICE OFFICERS**

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

This proposed bill would require that police records of criminal investigations be erased upon the expiration of any statute of limitations within which the applicable crime may be prosecuted.

There are many cases where law enforcement agencies are unable to make arrests because the statute of limitations has expired. Requiring the erasure of the records of all criminal investigations in which the statute of limitations has run would ignore the fact that there are many criminals who commit multiple crimes. Although information in an investigation for a crime for which the statute of limitations has run cannot be used for prosecution of that crime, the information may be important to show method of operation or other linking information that can show probable cause in more recent crimes for which the statute of limitations has not run.

An example from recent agency experience involved the investigation of a series of unsolved sexual assaults that came to light while investigating a murder case. In this case some of the crimes the suspect committed were not able to be prosecuted but the information contained in those reports was critical to showing probable cause in investigations that are still within the statute of limitations

Sincerely,

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

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins  
ACTING COMMISSIONER