

STATEMENT

INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

Public Safety And Security Committee

February 22, 2011

**HB 5494, An Act Permitting Local Police To Charge For Motor
Vehicle Accident Or Investigative Reports**

The Insurance Association of Connecticut, IAC, is opposed to the provisions of HB 5494 which seek to set flat rates that a municipal police department may charge for searching and producing accident or investigative reports.

Municipal police departments already have the ability to charge a fee for providing copies of accident reports. Those rates are usually calculated at a set rate on a per page basis, usually fifty cents per page. Most accident reports are typically no more than two pages, thus the charge is in line with the report produced. Escalating the fee to sixteen dollars is exorbitant and bears no rational relationship to the report issued.

Additionally, there is currently no search charge fee as contemplated in HB 5494. To mandate an eight dollar fee every time a search is conducted is illogical. It is not within the public's control when, and if ever, a report is available. As such the public should not be required to pay a search fee. Reports are not voluntarily provided to the public. The public must request a copy of the report to get a report. Many times a report is never filed, or it takes an exceptionally long time for a report to be filed and available to the public. Nowadays most reports are electronic. A simple search to locate a report does not warrant an eight dollar fee, especially if no report is produced.

The IAC urges your rejection of HB 5494.