



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony to the Public Safety and Security Committee

Submitted February 8, 2011

by

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Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, Good Morning.

We are here this morning, representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), to speak on the following bills:

S.B. 85, AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNS ON CERTAIN COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES.

We support this Bill.

S.B. 876, AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHER TRAINING.

We support this Bill and strongly urge its passage, as this would eliminate the duplication in training and cost. We also propose that any public safety answering point (PSAP) that has a formal agreement with any entity, as defined in CGS 28-25b(g) to provide "medical interrogation, dispatch prioritization, and pre-arrival instructions" as detailed in CGS 28-25b(g)(2) be exempted from the training and program requirements as detailed in CGS 28-25b(g)(1) through (4).

H.B. 5056, AN ACT RAISING THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS.

We oppose this Bill. While we believe the intention of the bill is noble, we firmly believe that that minimum standards established by POST are sufficient.

There is nothing today that prohibits a municipality or its police department from establishing more stringent standards than those already established by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), and we feel that to do so is really a municipal decision. Some Departments already require degrees, and others offer incentives within their collective bargaining agreements to encourage officers to further their educations.

We also feel that if this bill was to pass, there is the potential for labor disputes. For example, what would happen if the officer did not obtain an Associate Degree in five years? Would the officer be released from employment, or would the officer be allowed additional time to accommodate this provision? Perhaps an alternative to this bill would be to pass legislation that offers free tuition for law enforcement personnel at State institutions when taking courses related to their profession.