



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION



Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
Office of Policy and Management

SB 364: AN ACT CONCERNING TRAFFIC STOP INFORMATION

March 12, 2012

Good Morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Earlier this year Governor Malloy directed the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Transportation to ensure that police departments continue to collect, or begin to collect, traffic stop data pursuant to the Alvin Penn Act and submit it to an appropriate outside evaluator for analysis and report. My office has been working with the DOT, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University and with Criminal Justice Information System Executive Director Sean Thakkar to accomplish these goals.

If the General Assembly transfers the responsibility for receiving this data and issuing an annual report, we will do so. At this time, we believe that federal grant funds available to us for this purpose will cover the first year cost for FY 2013.

I believe the following changes would clarify the role of both OPM and the CJIS Board:

This language:

(b) Not later than January 1, 2013, the Office of Policy and Management and the Criminal Justice Information System Governing Board shall, within available resources, develop and promulgate ...

Should be amended to read:

(b) Not later than January 1, 2013, the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Executive Director of Criminal Justice Information System, shall, within available resources, develop and promulgate...

The CJIS Governing Board is co-chaired by Judge Patrick Carroll and myself. We are in agreement that this language would appropriately reflect the advisory nature of the board and the expertise of the Executive Director Sean Thakkar. I recommend that subsequent references to the CJIS Governing Board should be deleted and that the sole responsibility for collecting and reporting on data be that of OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division.

I would recommend that the Judiciary Committee consider deleting the requirement to provide a "copy of the completed form" in this language:

(c) On and after January 1, 2013, whenever a police officer makes traffic stop of a motor vehicle, such officer shall, if a form has been promulgated pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, complete such form and provide a copy of the completed form to the operator of the motor vehicle.

As a practical matter, I do not think police officers in patrol cars have the capability to generate copies of documents. Also, the focus of this initiative is electronic data, so a paper copy may not be an option at the scene. Perhaps a provision in the advisory form for obtaining a copy upon request would be more appropriate.