



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

March 12, 2012

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

SB 245 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF POLICE ACTIVITY BY THE PUBLIC

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection opposes this bill.

This bill would impose civil liability on police officers who "interfere" with anyone including the media, attempting to video record any police activity. There is no limitation on the nature of the interference and the liability would be in regard to anyone, including media representatives. Law enforcement functions affected would include processing crime scenes and interviewing witnesses in public areas. This would also include videotaping of deaths or serious injuries before notification to family is made. Videotaping in a crime zone prior to evidence being evaluated and secured may compromise the evidence and subsequent prosecution. Witnesses might be exposed to problems if their pictures or images are obtained by the wrong people or publicized on T.V. or the papers

Police officers need to be able to do their jobs without being subjected to statutory civil liability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reuben F. Bradford".

Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER