



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

February 28, 2012

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairmen
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RB 5096 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FIREARMS EVIDENCE DATABANK

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

This bill will give discretion to forensic examiners assigned to the Division of Scientific Services to enter firearms related data into federal databases that have probative value to be linked to other criminal acts in a timelier manner.

Currently, CGS 29-7h requires mandatory entry of bullet data information from test fires of seized firearms into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, NBIN. Each bullet entry requires twenty (20) minutes of data entry time into the NIBIN system. The current practice of forensic institutions throughout the country is not to enter bullet information, but to enter cartridge information into the NIBIN system. Currently there is less than a 1% chance to make a confirmed bullet match to a bullet entry into NBIN. The Division of Scientific Services has made only five bullet matches out of over 10,000 entries over a 10 year period because of limited bullet evidence at crime scenes as well as the difficulty in matching bullets due to the malleable component materials.

The intent of this legislation is to provide examiner discretion to enter bullet data into NBIN and devote the limited forensic firearm resources to entry of firearm evidence that will have the greatest probative value which is firearm cartridge evidence. Providing examiner discretion to bullet evidence entry into NBIN will provide for timelier examinations of firearms related evidence, and will presumably lead to greater links of firearms involved in multiple criminal acts that will aid law enforcement investigations and prosecutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reuben F. Bradford".

Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER

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