



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SAMPSON
EIGHTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (203) 879-3200
EMAIL: Rob.Sampson@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative Rob Sampson
Before the Public Safety and Security Committee
On House Bill 5245
February 28, 2012*

Good morning Chairmen Hartley and Dargan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Giegler, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to testify in favor of HB 5245, AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER.

Thank you for raising this bill for a public hearing. I submitted this bill and also another similar bill in an effort to preserve each citizen of Connecticut's 2nd amendment liberties. It's actually a shame that this bill is even necessary. The goal of this legislation is simply to require each municipality in Connecticut to follow the same identical uniform criteria when issuing a temporary pistol permit which is required as part of the process of obtaining your state permit. It has become widely known that some municipalities are delaying the issuance of permits notwithstanding the applicant's suitability but instead for political reasons.

Lest anyone forget, the reason our 2nd amendment exists is because we as American citizens are individually sovereign. At the time our great country was founded, only royalty in the European countries across the Atlantic were granted special rights. Everyone else was merely a subject. Alternatively, we as American citizens are kings and queens unto ourselves. It follows that we each would have the right to defend our individual persons.

The 2nd amendment is clear on its face. Each US citizen is guaranteed the right to bear arms. The necessity and also the Constitutionality of any permitting process while widely accepted today is itself debatable. In fact, one state, I believe it is Vermont, requires no pistol permit whatsoever, relying solely on the 2nd amendment as the final rule of law on this subject.

Finally, I want to note that the 2nd amendment is indeed second, not 30th or 100th. It is second only to the first amendment to our Bill of Rights which protects our sacred freedoms of speech, of religion, of the press and to assemble. Obviously, our founding fathers considered the 2nd amendment to be very important and illustrated that importance by its placement.

We've drifted a long way from there. To me, this bill is just a baby step back in the right direction.

Thank you again for holding this hearing on HB. 5245 and I wish to express my support of the bill and ask the committee's favorable action.

Sincerely,

Rep. Rob Sampson
80th District

I also want to offer a suggestion for an amendment. As I stated above, the goal of this legislation is to re-establish the existing criteria as what is required for the issuance of a pistol permit. I would like to make the following change which makes it clear that no additional criteria can be added or substituted.

In lines 28 and 29, strike "additional forms" and insert "information not required by statute" in lieu thereof