



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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PRESIDENT RICHARD HOLTON

Office of The President

Statement of
THE HARTFORD POLICE UNION
To the
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman, Senator Maynard, Co-Chairman, Representative Guerra, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Richard Holton, a Sergeant in the Hartford Police Department with 16 years of policing experience. I am also the President of the Hartford Police Union, the largest independent municipal police union in the state. On behalf of all the members of the Hartford Police Union, which is comprised of Patrolmen, Detectives, Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains, we appreciate your dedication and thank you in raising **House Bill #5023, An Act Concerning Arrest Powers of Local Police Officers and Motor Vehicle Inspectors.**

The Hartford Police Union is in support of this proposed bill because it provides on duty sworn police officers the ability to make a misdemeanor arrest when travelling outside of their municipality as is currently defined by state statute in regards to a felony crime.

The practice of on duty sworn police officers making arrests in another municipality has been done for many years when police officers are assigned to multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces. These Task Forces, whether working plainclothes narcotics or uniformed traffic enforcement units, have operated both effectively and efficiently in terms of operational success and having little to no additional exposure to liability because of jurisdictional issues.

On duty sworn police officers making misdemeanor arrests will simply follow the same procedures and protocols already in existence when making a felony arrest. Because this practice has been previously established with little to no negative impact or burden on the municipality it appears that adding misdemeanor arrests to the practice will increase public safety without adding a negative impact or burden.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration into this important public safety issue.