



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

September 25, 2012

Rep. T.R. Rowe, Co-Chairman
Sen. John W. Fonfara, Co-Chairman
Program Review and Investigations Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee
September 25, 2012 Public Hearing
Connecticut State Police Staffing Standards**

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection began meetings with the Program Review and Investigations Committee staff in July, shortly after the effective date of Public Act 12-1. Your staff has been interacting with our agency on a daily basis and we have provided them with a great deal of information that I am not going to repeat in my testimony today. We are impressed with the scope of the information your staff is already providing in the update presented to the committee today. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection has made every effort to provide full cooperation in getting your staff whatever information they need and providing ready access to our staff at every level, and we will continue in that effort.

The "Background" summary that your staff has provided on page 1 of the report gives an accurate and complete summary of the historic statutory language as to what sworn staffing *should* be. It is important to view that history with the perspective that the necessary funding to attain the statutory staffing level has, for many different reasons, often not been appropriated by the General Assembly. While the present statutory language provides that "The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall appoint and maintain a sufficient number of sworn state police personnel to efficiently maintain the operation of the Division of State Police . . .", the Commissioner, of course cannot appoint and maintain positions that are not funded.

It is also important to note that there is a necessary process time required to meet staffing levels. This agency works together with the Department of Administrative Services in a selections process that is required prior to the beginning of the rigorous six-month class for our recruits. Gains in sworn staffing levels due to new recruit classes may not result in an overall staffing gain due to the normal attrition resulting from retirements.

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Presently, the sworn staffing level is at 1101, of which 1040 are available for active duty.

I am sure that in the course of their study and analysis your staff will provide this committee with a complete picture of the operations and challenges faced by the Division of State Police, from which you will develop the standards required by Public Act 12-1.

In reviewing this update report, I would keep in mind that a fuller picture will develop as the staff continues their study and analysis. One consideration to keep in mind is that, in providing public safety services to the State of Connecticut, the Division of State Police is responsible not only for public safety in those municipalities without their own police departments, but also for providing on a statewide basis, those special services that all municipalities require such as major crime investigation, emergency services and counter-terrorism efforts.

Finally, a distinction that I am sure this committee is well aware of, but I will state for purposes of the record, is that the Program Review and Investigations Committee is not tasked with setting a statutory number for sworn staffing, but in developing standards for use by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection in determining the commissioner's proposed level of staffing for the Division of State Police for purposes of the biennial budget.

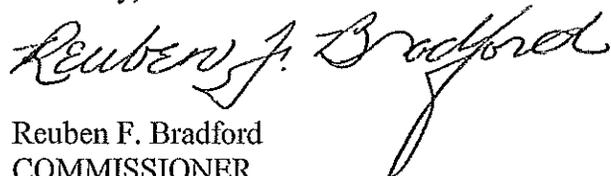
In the history of setting staffing levels, this is the most scientific and reasoned approach to the issue that has been taken. The required considerations of the committee include:

- technological improvements,
- federal mandates and funding,
- statistical data on rates and types of criminal activity,
- staffing of patrol positions,
- staffing of positions within the division and department that do not require the exercise of police powers, and
- changes in municipal police policy and staffing

This will provide for the first time a completely analytical basis upon which the Commissioner may determine the proposed level of staffing for the Division of State Police for purposes of the biennial budget.

I will be glad to respond to any questions that you may have at this time.

Sincerely,


Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER