



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS

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Good afternoon Senator Duff, Representative Kiner, Senator Kane, Representative Wood and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

I am Chief T. William Knapp, (Ret.) and the elected Secretary of the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners. I am going to briefly give a description of the Board as well as the Board's response to Governor Malloy's 2014-2015 biannual budget.

Board Description:

In accordance with Connecticut State Statute 29-32b, the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners was formed to provide a means of appeal through civil administrative hearings for any citizens who have been denied a temporary pistol permit or eligibility certificate or the revocation of a State pistol permit or eligibility certificate.

The Board is comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor. The Chairman is a Senior Assistant State's Attorney (recommended by the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection); the Secretary of the Board, a retired Police Chief recommended by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; the Colonel and Commander of the State Environmental Conservation Police recommended by the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; an attorney recommended by the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association; an officer and member of the Connecticut Gun Guild recommended by them; and two public members one an attorney who is a retired Commander- US Navy Reserve fighter pilot (recommended by the Connecticut Against Gun Violence organization) and the other is a retired police officer and a retired state agency crime investigator.

The Board members are uncompensated volunteers. In 2011, the Board received 321 new appeals and in 2012 the Board received 420 new appeals, an increase of 31%. In order to reduce a backlog of 22 months (a few years ago), the Board members agreed to increase the number of meetings and the number of cases heard at each meeting. Presently the Board meets 16-18 times a year with 20 cases scheduled for each meeting. The wait time for an appeal hearing is now only 6 months and we hope to reduce it to perhaps 3 months.

Board response to the Governor Malloy's 2014-2015 biannual budget proposals:

The Board supports Governor Malloy's concept of economy through consolidation of administrative functions such as human resources, payroll, affirmative action, information technology, etc. to share agency resources.

The Board does not support consolidation that transfers core agency functions, including adjudication of contested cases within the constituent agencies' missions.

Each of the eight agencies has different statutory missions and reflects different legislative choices in composition of membership and scope of mission. The proposed consolidation would degrade the mission capability of these agencies and undermine legislative policy choices in the creation and composition of the agencies.

The Board cannot support the proposal which authorizes the executive administrator of OGA to make budget determinations that effect basic agency operations such as litigation, number of hearings, hearing schedules, etc., which are properly the subject of decision making by the appointed boards or commissions or their executive directors.

Board Results of Decisions and Agreements Fiscal Year 2011-2012

2011 Fiscal Year

Decisions and Agreements in Favor of the Appellant

Votes in favor of appellant	56
Votes by default for appellant	6
Chief or First Selectmen issued temporary permit*	57
Commissioner reissued State permit** (settled)	38
Total	157

Decisions and Agreements in Favor of the Issuing Authority

Vote in favor of Chief or First Selectman	14
Vote in favor of DESPP Commissioner	37
Appellant withdrew appeal /barred by law	45
Appellant withdrew prior to hearing***	51
Total	147

*Appellants will appeal when they have waited longer than 8 weeks in accordance with CGS 29-32b (c). However 37 appellants were issued the temporary permit from the Chief or First Selectman while waiting for an appeal.

**Appellants who have gone to court and have their case dismissed will call the DESPP and sometimes are reissued the permit prior to their hearing.

***Appellant withdrew due to court case still pending

2012 Fiscal Year*Decisions and Agreements in Favor of the Appellant*

Votes in favor of appellant	85
Votes by default for appellant	15
Chief or First Selectmen issue temporary permit* (settled)	37
Commissioner reissues State permit** (settled)	82
Total	189

Decisions and Agreement in Favor of the Issuing Authority

Vote in favor of Chief or First Selectman	17
Vote in favor of DESPP Commissioner	59
Appellant withdrew barred by law	46
Appellant withdrew***	45
Total	167

*Appellants will appeal when they have waited longer than 8 weeks in accordance with CGS 29-32b (c). However 37 appellants were issued the temporary permit from the Chief or First Selectman while waiting for an appeal.

**Appellants who have gone to court and have their case dismissed will call the DESPP and sometimes are reissued the permit prior to their hearing.

***Appellant withdrew due to court case still pending

Total Results for 2011 and 2012 for Appellant	346
Total Results for 2011 and 2012 for Issuing Authorities	<u>314</u>
	660