



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
1800 Silas Deane Highway-Rear Building, Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06070
(860) 757-3909 Fax: (860) 529-4265
www.cpcanet.org

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Judiciary, April 15, 2013
Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & Matthew Reed, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Committee, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association presents the following testimony in **OPPOSITION** to Committee Bill 291 – An Act Concerning Procedures for Determining the Potential Disqualification of a Judicial Branch Official and Establishing a Process That Allows the Office of the Attorney General to Review Complaints of Wrongdoing by Municipal Police Departments.

Connecticut's police chiefs set forth policies, rules and regulations that govern the conduct of business within their agency and sets the standards of conduct for their officers and employees. Each agency establishes a complaint policy that provides guidance for the investigation of allegations of wrongdoing by police officers and staff members. Additionally, municipalities set forth through their charter or ordinances policies and procedures for reviewing the conduct of any municipal department whether it be finance, public works, human services or the police department.

The proposed bill would allow an aggrieved individual go outside of already established systems to make a complaint to the Attorney General of Connecticut if they are dissatisfied with their local police department.

It is the Association's position that the investigation of a police department is best handled by officials within the municipality, or, if the situation warrants, the State's Attorney for the local judicial district.

Recent events have shown that agencies such as the FBI and the US Department of Justice are more than willing to investigate allegations of wrongdoing in local police departments.

Passage of this bill would create a whole new bureaucracy within our state government that steps beyond the bounds of the State's authority and extends the Attorney General's authority to investigate municipal matters.

We urge the committee to strike the language charging the Attorney General with the investigation of local departments or take no action at all on this proposal. The proposal should be vetted by municipalities and other stakeholders to determine whether this is a legitimate task of Connecticut's Attorney General.

END