



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

February 7, 2013

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 5751 AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection has strong concerns about this bill.

This proposed bill would amend Section 29-5 of the General Statutes to require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to develop a program to permit the sharing of a resident state police officer among multiple municipalities. The stated purpose is "to enable small towns to work collectively for the provision of police services."

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection believes strongly that the resident state trooper program is among the best governmental programs in the State. It is a program that makes sense both from a public safety standpoint and a fiscal standpoint. The current language of the statute is permissive rather than mandatory. It is wise to leave it that way. The Memorandums of Understanding the DESPP enters into with participating towns allow either the town or the agency to get out of the agreement with thirty days notice. While only extraordinary circumstances would lead to such action by the agency, it is possible that staffing demands of the agency could require this in unusual circumstances and should remain possible.

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HB 5751
February 7, 2013
Page 2

The current language of the statute allows for resident troopers to be appointed for two or more adjoining towns. While the agency is open to such arrangements, there are circumstances in which it is unworkable. If, for example, two towns are adjoining but each is in a different state police troop, it is not administratively feasible as the resident trooper cannot be supervised by two different troop commanders.

The agency well understands the need to be efficient with resources and is open to discussions and possible agreements with adjoining towns within the same state police troop that allow these towns to share a resident trooper but has strong concerns about a statutory mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reuben F. Bradford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER