



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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## **Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety and Security, February 7, 2012**

**Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & Matthew Reed, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Security. We represent the interests of Connecticut's municipal and university police chiefs and we appear before you today to testify on several raised bills.

### **HB 6007 – An Act Concerning “Blue Alerts”**

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports the institution of a “Blue Alert” system. Such system will compliment the State's existing emergency alert systems used for public notification for critical situations such as the disappearance of a child and missing elderly persons. Law enforcement and the general public can only benefit from the implementation of such alert systems.

### **HB 6009 – An Act Concerning Local Training of Municipal Police Officers**

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports the concept raised in this proposal. Training techniques and training mediums have evolved in recent years and it would be beneficial for POST and Connecticut's law enforcement agencies to explore this method of training. However, in order for POST to commission the development and evaluation of on-line training they have to receive appropriate funding and personnel suitable for performing this task. Mandating the provision of on-line training without commensurate funding to meet the mandate would likely stymie the Council's ability to comply.

### **HB 5540 – An Act Concerning the Arrest Powers of Sworn Members of Local Police Departments**

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports passage of this proposed bill. Police officers across the state are already granted the statutory authority to make an arrest anywhere in the state for a crime designated a felony. Amending the statute to include other crimes or violations only serves to better protect the residents of our state. When a police officer witnesses a person committing an offense such police officer should have the lawful authority to take action and make an arrest.

Connecticut's municipal police officers endure rigorous training at both the entry level and throughout their career. Municipal police officers are required to undergo a recertification process every three years. Such process ensures all municipal officers are engaging in best law enforcement practices and have a thorough understanding of statutory changes. Connecticut's municipal police officers are aptly qualified to be granted this authority.

When a Connecticut resident sees a police officer in uniform they expect the police officer to take appropriate action should a crime be witnessed. Under current statutes, a municipal officer lacks the lawful authority to take action unless the crime is among the most serious.

Passage of this bill will enhance public safety for all of Connecticut's residents.

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