



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 6009 An Act Concerning Local Training of Municipal Police Officers

***The Department of Emergency Services and
Public Protection opposes this bill.***

This proposed bill would require that Chapter 104 of the General Statutes be amended to require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to create an interactive electronic computer-training platform that can be used by local police officers in their municipalities to complete training requirements mandated by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council.

As of July 1, 2012, there were 7,769 certified police officers in the State that are required to attain sixty hours of Review Training Credit over every three year period, with twenty hours per year averaged. That amounts to 155,380 training hours per year at a minimum.

Currently, many of these review training hours are earned, not at the POST Academy but at an officer's own agency, at regional training events provided by outside trainers and vendors and by universities and other government agencies such as the FBI.

In fiscal year 2011-2012, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, (POST) provided in service training at the Academy of instruction in courses varying from four hours to two weeks. There are currently 1,143 Certified Law Instructors in the State who are authorized to award Review Training Credits to attendees at classes they teach. Several of the courses offered by POST at the Academy require practical

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exercises such as Interview and Interrogation, Advanced Accident Investigation, Crime Scene and Crime Scene Photography etc. These are hands on courses requiring the student to actively participate in a manner not feasible with electronic computer training.

Additionally, the costs to institute such a program would be prohibitive at this time. There are current staffing shortages in every unit at POST. This proposed bill would require additional staff in terms of content experts being available for on line questions and discussions. There also would be anticipated hardware and software costs as well as IT staffing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reuben F. Bradford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER