



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

February 21, 2013

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

HB 6375 - AN ACT CONCERNING UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

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

Current law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to notify the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) when a municipality is not in compliance with the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). This proposal will give OPM the authority to deny eligibility for state and federal law enforcement grants if a municipality is not in compliance.

There are currently no penalties in place for law enforcement agencies that are not in compliance in their UCR data submissions. DESPP Crimes Analysis staff spends hundreds of hours each year calling and emailing agencies that have incomplete and/or inaccurate data. Other states have instituted similar legislation and have seen huge increases in the number of agencies in compliance. The state of New York posts delinquent agencies on their website; they also have the authority to withhold funding. After instituting this system, the state of New York saw UCR compliance go from 60% to 95%.

This proposal would result in significant savings to DESPP, and would free up time to work on further automation of the unit's crime reporting. Further automation would also provide the reporting agencies and other users of the data with better information from which to make decisions and for possible use in grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reuben F. Bradford".

Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER

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