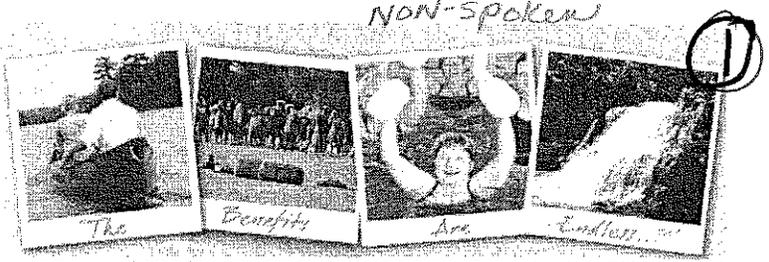


CONNECTICUT RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION



Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing February 28, 2013

Testimony on Raised Bill 969 – ***AN ACT CONCERNING FEES CHARGED FOR CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS***

The Connecticut Recreation and Park Association (CRPA) is a nonprofit and charitable organization whose mission is to provide a network of support to our members through professional development and resources in order to enhance the quality of recreation and parks services in Connecticut. CRPA represents about 600 individual professionals from municipal, nonprofit and private, park, recreation & camp organizations, as well as 122 of the 169 municipal park and recreation departments in Connecticut. CRPA urges the Public Safety and Security Committee to include a provision in Raised Bill 969 - An Act Concerning Fees Charged for Criminal History Records Checks that would also exempt municipalities from criminal background check fees for employees and volunteers working with vulnerable populations.

CRPA has long been an advocate for providing criminal background checks to individuals working and volunteering with vulnerable populations however, municipalities have struggled with finding the funding to provide these background checks. Criminal background checks are very costly per person; municipal budgets cannot absorb this cost. If the state is considering providing an exemption to state agencies to conduct such background checks, it should extend this offer to municipalities as well.

The Connecticut Recreation and Park Association urges the Public Safety and Security Committee to include a provision to extend criminal background check fee exemptions to municipalities for employees and volunteers working with vulnerable populations. By doing so the Committee will ensure that all of Connecticut's children are learning and playing in the safest environment possible.

Paul J. Roche, Chairman
Legislative Committee
Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association



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