



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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## Testimony to Committee on Public Safety and Security Raised Bill No. 98

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By

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Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) oppose **Raised Bill 98**, as this bill would effectively cancel all the work and concerns that went into getting Public Act No. 13-188 approved.

Public Act No. 13-188 - An Act Concerning School Safety provided that "For the school year commencing July 1, 2013, and each school year thereafter" municipalities, local boards of education or regional boards of education may not employ any personnel as armed school security personnel unless such personnel be a "sworn member of an organized local police department or a retired police officer" defined as a person " who was a sworn member of an organized local police department who was certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and retired or separated in good standing from such department or a sworn member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection who retired or separated in good standing from said division."

The Public Act further provides that "such retired police officer shall receive annual training pursuant to Section 7-294x of the general statutes and shall successfully complete annual firearms training provided by a certified firearms instructor that meets or exceeds the standards of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council".

The first training session was provided on August 29, 2013 at the Connecticut Police Academy. Notice of this training was sent to all Connecticut Superintendents of Schools and all Connecticut Boards of Education.

**Raised Bill 98 would allow for armed school security personnel who were not previously members of law enforcement, as described above, within the Public Act.**

While CPCA has no objection to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) consulting with the Department of Education, we opposes this bill, as we firmly believe that the present standards as established by POST, as authorized by Public Act No. 13-188, are sufficient for armed school security personnel within school districts.

Therefore, CPCA encourages the Committee on Public Safety and Security **to not support this bill.**