

Judiciary Committee Hearing
Public Hearing Testimony
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 2C
Hartford, CT 06106

Scott W. Martin
121 Hickory Circle
Middletown, CT, 06457-2438
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Dear Honorable Committee Members,

OPPOSE HB No 7028- An Act Concerning The Department of Correction, Access to the Firearms database by Parole Officers and the Presentation of a Carry Permit.

As is currently written I cannot support Bill 7028 with the provisions to present a carry permit without due cause from law enforcement. One should be able to exercise a right without discrimination or harassment. I believe this law as written has the potential for abuse by law enforcement to class of our citizenry intent on exercising a fundamental civil right. Without proper oversight this provision of law could be used to target minorities or harass individuals on an on going basis.

With the precedent of reporting traffic stops by law enforcement in the Alfred W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act, sec 54-1m of the CGS, to prevent discrimination I believe a similar measure is warranted to guard against the use of potential abuse of Bill 7028 against the citizenry of Connecticut.

The proposed data collection would not contain any individual identifier but a record of date, time, town(location), race of the individual and justification of the inquiry for presentation of the handgun permit. Such compiled information would also be available to a citizen of Connecticut through a Freedom of Information request. The measure should also include a method to file a complaint for investigation with the Chief States Attorney for violations of abuse and FOI requests for these complaints redacting the identity of the individual for privacy reasons. This is a common sense approach to prevent this proposed statue from being biased and discriminatory when exercising a fundamental civil right. I do not believe the proposed law is constitutional under the fourth amendment but if this legislature insists on forcing yet another law upon the lawful people of Connecticut the least that could be done is to add a provision to prevent the abuse.

In addition, why do parole officers need to know the status of a lawful permit or the possession of firearms of lawful citizens? If an individual is not prohibited from possession of firearms it is none of their business and this should be privacy concern to all law-abiding citizens. This proposal may well violate the Federal Firearms Owners Protection Act of 1986.

Respectfully,

Scott Martin