



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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www.cpcanet.org

Testimony to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, March 20, 2015

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association represent the interests of Connecticut's municipal and university police chiefs and respectfully submits to you this testimony in regards to the following bills.

Proposed S.B. 652 – An Act Concerning the Investigation of the Use of Deadly Force by a Peace Officer that Results in the Death of a Person.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports a process that provides for a thorough, impartial investigation of any death that occurs after a police use of force event. We feel that the existing statute that governs such investigations, CGS 51-277a, coupled with the current practice and policy of the Division of Criminal Justice, provides for the type of investigation that this proposed bill does.

S.B. 1065 – An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity By the Public.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association respectfully requests that the Committee take no action on this proposed bill. Police across Connecticut agree that the public has the right to record them in the performance of their duties. Any party aggrieved by an officer's actions in attempting to stop their recording is already afforded avenues through which their grievance can be addressed.

S.B. 1092 – An Act Concerning Compelled Disclosure of Cellular Telephone and Internet Records.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association urges the Committee to take no action on this proposal. The current statutory practice in place provides for the appropriate judicial review prior to police gaining access to cellular telephone or internet records. We believe that the existing requirement for judicial review strikes the proper balance between privacy concerns, the need to intervene in matters of public and personal safety, and the ability to properly investigate alleged misconduct.

S.B. 1104 – An Act Concerning the Militarization of Law Enforcement Agencies – The

Connecticut Police Chiefs Association agrees that it would be appropriate for the local legislative body and chief executive to review a police agency's request to obtain the referenced equipment. We do not, however, support the state-level reporting requirements described in Sections 2, 3 and 4. Local agencies should report to their local legislative bodies so that body can determine if their communities are being best served by the use of such equipment.

S.B. 1108 – An Act Concerning the Zero-Tolerance Safe School Environment Act – The Connecticut Chief of Police Association SUPPORTS the provisions of the proposed bill.

S.B. 1109 – An Act Concerning Excessive Use of Force – The Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association supports any act that provides enhanced training opportunities for police such as those listed in section 1.

While Chiefs of Police support technology that allows us the opportunity to assist in gaining the trust of the community and document the actions of our officers, we don't believe that the mandate for all police officers to wear body cameras is the proper approach at this time. We think it is best that the use of body cameras and other technological devices be left to the local agency and their legislative body.



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The Chiefs Association supports any initiative that will allow us to attract and retain qualified minority applicants in an effort to increase the diversity of our agencies.

H.B. 5437 – **An Act Concerning the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act.** The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association continues to support the tenets and purpose of the Alvin W. Penn Act and vow to continue our compliance with the Act. However, the Association urges the Committee to take no action on this proposed amendment to the Act. The mandate that all reporting take place electronically and that a printed “receipt” of the traffic stop be provided to the motorist, while well intentioned, will simply add to the officer’s contact time with the motorist and create several points of technological error that will decrease the officer’s productivity and likely add to each community’s costs.

H.B. 7013 – **An Act Concerning DNA Testing for Persons Arrested for Murder of Sexual Assault.** The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association SUPPORTS this proposed bill.

H.B. 7028 – **An Act Concerning the Department of Correction, Access to the Firearms Database by Parole Officers, and a Presentation of a Carry Permit.** The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association SUPPORTS this proposed bill.

END