



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

365-1A Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

(860) 324-5726 (860) 324-6285 Fax: (860) 529-4265

www.cpcanet.org

Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety and Security, February 17, 2015

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security. We represent the interests of Connecticut's municipal and university police chiefs and we submit to you this testimony on several raised bills.

Proposed S.B. 902 – An Act Concerning Workers Compensation Coverage for Police Officers and Firefighters with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports this proposed addition to the existing Workers' Compensation statutes. Harm comes in many forms to the men and women who work to protect our communities. Often times that harm occurs from the simple act of witnessing death or the immediate aftermath of death. The impact of these experiences can be long-lasting and often devastating to the life of the officer or firefighter. Our statutory scheme should allow such injuries that are sustained in the line of duty to be recognized and compensated for through our Workers' Compensation system.

H.B. 5379 – An Act Concerning the Penalty for Assault of an Off-Duty Police Officer.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports an enhanced penalty for the attack of a police officer when that police officer is off-duty. Our statutes should afford protection to the men and women who serve as police officers in Connecticut. While the assault of any person is tragic, the targeting and subsequent assault of a police officer, particularly when they are off-duty, is particularly heinous.

A police officer engages many people during his or her working hours. Often times, that engagement may be upsetting to the citizen and may cause the citizen to seek revenge against the officer. This is the primary reason why our current statutes allow police officers and other vulnerable public safety officials to restrict the release of their home addresses.

Our statutes should afford an enhanced penalty to those who assault an off-duty police officer.

Proposed H.B. 6498 – An Act Concerning the Timely Transfer and Processing of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports the timely submission and analysis of evidence collected in the aftermath of an alleged sexual assault.

Proposed H.B. 6775 – An Act Concerning the Payment of Costs of Certification for a Police Officer

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports the proposed bill. The recruitment, selection and training of a police officer candidate is an expensive and time-consuming process for all of Connecticut's police departments. The loss to an agency when an officer resigns and accepts an offer of employment with another police agency within the state is devastating. This Act will ensure that a municipality gets at least 2-years of service from a new officer after they receive their POST certification. Should an officer decide to accept employment with another Connecticut police agency within that 2-years, the department will receive compensation that reimburses the town for the training of the officer.

Proposed H.B. 6711 – An Act Concerning Communication Between Police and Child Day Care Centers

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association does not support this proposal in its current form. We understand and support the concept behind the bill. Some police departments already engage in a process that allows for the timely notification of local child day care centers in the event of a crisis. However, that takes a number of affirmative steps on the part of the municipality to seek out and establish communication with these providers. The existing statutory and regulatory scheme does not require a child day care center or home day care center to notify emergency responders of their existence thus leaving the emergency service provider with the challenge of finding such child care providers. While this may be feasible for a small police agency, it would be quite burdensome to a large municipality. There is clearly a cost to gathering and inputting child care facility data into a police dispatch system and global information system so as to ensure that proper notification is possible during times of crisis. This proposal lacks a requirement for child day care centers to communicate with emergency service providers and lacks a funding mechanism.

END