

AFSCME COUNCIL 15
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE UNIONS

Testimony before the PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

IN OPPOSITION TO
H.B. 6775 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF
CERTIFICATION FOR A POLICE OFFICER.

AFSCME Council 15 represents fifty-eight (58) local municipal police unions in the State of Connecticut with a membership of three thousand (3,000) sworn municipal police officers from all across the state. We ask you to reject H.B. No. 6775 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF CERTIFICATION FOR A POLICE OFFICER, which would penalize and restrain the mobility of police officers as they pursue career objectives. A similar bill was passed last year by an amendment in the final week of session, but was vetoed by Governor Malloy. (PA 14-218)

We oppose the restrictions of such legislation. In a free market society, the key to the most beneficial use of resources is the free mobility of those resources. Placing arbitrary limitations on the mobility of employees has many negative impacts to our society as a whole.

First, this bill unfairly restrains the free movement of police officers to those communities that need their particular skills and abilities most. By doing so, it drives up the cost for police officers throughout the state, while preventing the most qualified officers from being hired by those departments that need their services.

Second, it unfairly restrains the men and women who protect our streets from gaining the most advantageous and rewarding police jobs for themselves. This affects our members in the pocketbook, as well as by limiting their career and advancement opportunities.

Third, in a state that values collective bargaining for all of its employees, the types of restraints sought by the proponents of this legislation should be gained at the bargaining table, not as a result of legislation. Certainly there is value to the restraints sought to be imposed. The beneficiaries of this value should not gain it without paying a fair market price for it. That can be accomplished by collective bargaining and we would encourage employers who seek this benefit to gain it at the bargaining table.

For these reasons, we urge rejection of HB 6775.