



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Public Safety Committee  
February 17, 2015**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) appreciates the opportunity to comment in **support of HB- 6775 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF CERTIFICATION FOR A POLICE OFFICER.**

This bill addresses a concern raised by municipalities that they are sometimes on the hook for training costs associated with police officer certification even though the police officer is then hired away by another town. HB-6775 requires that municipalities be reimbursed for the costs of police certification when a police officer is hired by another municipality within two years of such certification.

This is a basic fairness issue to ensure that the municipality that underwrites the cost of the training is compensated by the municipality that ends up benefitting from the hiring of the officer. According to the fiscal note for a bill adopted by the General Assembly last year, training “is estimated to range between \$70,000 and \$120,000 depending on the salary, fringe benefit rate, and training method of the officer. Under the provisions of the bill, law enforcement agencies that hire an officer from another such agency within two years of certification would incur a cost equal to the cost of certification for each officer hired. Law enforcement agencies who lose an officer to such a lateral transfer would realize a corresponding revenue gain equal to the cost of certification.”