Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Planning & Development Committee
February 13, 2015

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) appreciates the opportunity to comment in ***support*** of **SB-454, AN ACT CONCERNING 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. SB-454 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."

1245 Farmington Ave., 101 ◆ West Hartford, CT 06107 ◆ Tel. 860-841-7350 ◆ bgara@ctcost.org