



# CCM 2015 Testimony

800 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

Your source for local government management information [www.ccm-ct.org](http://www.ccm-ct.org)

## ***PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE***

February 13, 2015

My name is Susan Bransfield, First Selectwoman for the Town of Portland.

I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities representing 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to all towns and cities, in particular:

### **SB 454 – An Act Concerning Payment of the Costs of Certification for a Police Officer**

CCM and the Town of Portland support SB 454 as it would allow town and cities to protect their investment for providing the certification for police officer training.

The proposal is similar to bill last year, which would have required a municipality to be reimbursed for the cost of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) certification when the officer is hired by another law enforcement entity within two years of their certification. While the legislation was passed by the General Assembly, the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

In light of the concerns raised by the Governor in his veto message, CCM would recommend that a graduated process be implemented to address this issue. In particular, when an officer, who has been employed with a police department for less than four years, decides to transfer to another law enforcement entity, the reimbursement rate should be tiered over a four year period. Specifically, allow the law enforcement entity responsible for paying the POST certification costs to be reimbursement 100% if transferring within the first year of employment, 75% if transferring within the second year of employment, 50% if transferring within the third year of employment and 25% if transferring within the fourth year of employment. Cost would be reimbursed by the law enforcement department that the officer decides to transfer to.

CCM believes that this approach would satisfy the professional mobility of the officer, as well protect the investment made by the municipality financing the POST certification.

The "cost of certification" would be the cost of training, equipment, uniforms, and any cost related to the council's entry-level requirements. This would not include any equipment or uniforms the officer returns, as well would not affect any agreement between a police officer, collective bargaining unit, or department currently in existence.

CCM and the Town of Portland urge the Committee to amend SB 454, as referenced above, and favorably report the bill.

★★★★