



Town of Thomaston

First Selectman's Office

Town Hall

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2/11/15

Re: SB 454 An Act Concerning Costs of Certification for a Police Officer

Planning & Development Committee
Co-Chair Senator Catherine Osten
Co-Chair Representative Philip Miller

I stand in support of the above referenced Bill SB454. This bill is a fair common sense approach which would allow municipalities to recover costs associated with training and certification of new Police Officers while not prohibiting those Officers free movement from one municipality to another for personal reasons, thereby not restricting their employment choices.

I use as an example a recent event that occurred in the Thomaston Police Department to illustrate my position. On October 1, 2013 we hired an untrained candidate and proceeded to train and certify this individual for Police Service. Training at the Police Academy and Field Training in town encompassed a period of 9 months and ended June 30, 2014. Training, compensation, benefit and administration costs equaled \$ 61,557.37 for this period of time. This in no way represents overtime costs, to fill the vacancy in our staff, while we waited for this Officer to be certified. Upon completion, this Officer served our community for approximately 3 months and then move to another Police Department. As a result, we expended \$ 61,557.37 + and received very little in return. Conversely, the Town that hired this Police Officer received an employee fully trained and certified and ready to work within as little as 2 weeks, a required minimum of field training, with no capital outlay for certification.

In conclusion, the reimbursement of expenses to a Town who had invested in the training and certification of a new Police Officer by another Town does not place a hardship on the acquiring town, does not restrict free movement an employee, but fairly repays that town for expenses incurred for training certification and other associated costs as required by the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Edmond V. Mone First Selectman