



CCM 2015 Testimony

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

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 95% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 6775 "An Act Concerning Payment of the Costs of Certification for a Police Officer"

CCM supports **HB 6775** as it would allow town and cities to protect their investment for providing the certification for police officer training.

HB 6775 is similar to a proposal last year which would have required municipalities to be reimbursed for the cost of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) certification when officers are 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 recommends 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. The costs 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 investments made by municipalities that finance 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 urges the Committee to **amend HB 6775**, as recommended above, and **favorably report the bill**.



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.