



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

DESPP Testimony
Public Safety and Security Committee
March 3, 2015

Good morning, Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I am William Shea, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Thank you for raising two of the Departments legislative proposals which are before you today- H.B. 6912 and H.B. 6913. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection strongly supports both of these important pieces of legislation.

H.B. No. 6912-AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

Under current law, all allocated funds under the school security grant program have an end date of June 30, 2015, which means all expenses would have been paid by the town/city/school district by that date. A number of school districts and communities have expressed concern to DESPP that they may not be unable to complete approved work, which includes construction and involves design, bidding, and awarding contracts before the current cutoff date of June 30, 2015.

This proposal would extend the performance period for the school security grant program to June 30, 2016 which would give the schools the time they need to complete these important school security upgrades.

H.B. No. 6913-AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANS OF OPERATION.

Under current law, municipalities are required to submit their emergency operations plan to the DESPP Commissioner on an annual basis for approval. This proposal would require towns to submit their plans biennially.

These plans provide the framework for response and recovery at the local level but as these plans change only slightly on an annual basis, changing the submission schedule from annually to biennially will reduce the administrative burden at both the state and local levels.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.