



Testimony

Joyce Stille, Town Manager, Town of Bolton
Before the Public Safety & Security Committee
February 5, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in *support* of **Proposed SB- 261, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERTIME COSTS OF RESIDENT STATE POLICE OFFICERS.**

The Town of Bolton currently utilizes the resident state trooper program to ensure public safety in our community. Over the past years we have experienced a dramatic increase in the costs associated with both overtime and benefits, as well as delayed communication regarding the adjustment of the fringe benefit rate. These last minute modifications are done after local budgets have been adopted, creating an undue burden on the town.

Recently, the state legislature increased the amount towns are required to reimburse the state for the Resident State Trooper overtime costs from 70% to 100%. This occurred in 2011. Due to this increase in cost and continued flat funding of state aid to municipalities, the cost of delivering critical services is becoming more and more difficult to manage in our local budget.

The Resident State Trooper program has been a strong state-local partnership for more than 60 years and it is critical to protecting the public safety of our citizens and businesses.

SB-261 will allow communities to continue to utilize this important program by reining in costs that have become unmanageable.

I urge your support for SB-261.