



50 Columbus Boulevard
3rd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860-953-2626
Fax: 860-953-1978

www.cpfu.org

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 23, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Glenn Terlecki and I am the President of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. This union represents approximately 900 dedicated State workers in law enforcement and firefighting professions.

I am here today to testify in **SUPPORT** of:

(Raised) S. B. 930, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS.

Aside from being the President of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union, I am also a 16-year veteran inspector with the Department of Motor Vehicles. I am a certified police officer, certified police academy instructor and field training officer. I have the same certification as every other police officer who graduates from the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy. Over the years, similar bills have been raised before and successfully passed out of this committee. These other bills died at some stage of the legislative process.

There always appears to be a lot of confusion focused on the implication of defining inspectors as peace officers. Inclusion in the definition of "peace officer" does not expand motor vehicle inspectors' arrest authority or statutory jurisdiction. It will not trigger a pay raise or a change in the retirement tier. Inspectors already have statewide patrol and arrest authority for violations of any statute or regulation relating to motor vehicles under section 14-8, and are already included in State hazardous duty retirement. Inclusion in this definition is simply a language change that will have no fiscal note attached to the bill.

I do not know the exact history behind the creation of the statutory term "peace officer" as opposed to "police officer" but I would surmise that it was created for the purpose of grouping various law enforcement professionals, some who are certified

police officers and some who are not, together under one definition. The problem is that there are existing statutes in which motor vehicle inspectors, as police officers, should be covered by, but because the statutes uses “peace officer” to define these individuals, motor vehicle inspectors are left unprotected.

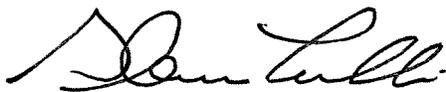
Some examples include:

- Sec. 53-206c — Makes it a class B misdemeanor for a person that brandishes or exhibits a facsimile of a firearm in the presence of a **peace officer**.
- Sec. 53a-11 — Makes it a class A felony when a person intentionally starts a fire or causes an explosion at the scene where a **peace officer** could be subjected to substantial risk of bodily injury.
- Sec. 14-296aa — This statute lists exceptions to the handheld mobile phone prohibition for certain persons while in the performance of their official duties, and includes: a **peace officer**, a firefighter, an operator of an ambulance, etc.
- Sec. 53a-217b — Permits lawful possession of a firearm on school grounds for certain individuals including **peace officers**. It is important to note that motor vehicle inspectors have a statutory obligation to inspect student transportation vehicles and commonly enforce the safe operation of these vehicles and their drivers on school grounds.

In each legislative session new laws are introduced or statues amended that make reference to “peace officers”. Each time one of these statutes change, motor vehicle inspectors are the only police officers in the State of Connecticut that are left out. When this happens, additional efforts are made in every legislative session that follows to “carve-out” amendments to specifically list motor vehicle inspectors in the statutes. This is a waste of time and resources when a permanent solution is to simply amend the definition of “peace officer” in Sec. 53a-3.

I ask for your support in passing this bill and granting motor vehicle inspectors the protection that is much deserved.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn Terlecki, President
Connecticut Police and Fire Union