

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the Judiciary Committee

In OPPOSITION to Raised Bill No. 5622 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF ERASED RECORDS IN DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON IS A SUITABLE PERSON TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER

James Crook

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Section 54-142a of the CT general statutes states "Any person who shall have been the subject of such an erasure shall be deemed to have never been arrested within the meaning of the general statutes with respect to the proceedings so erased and may so swear under oath." Logically records erased were accomplished for some reason. Under law, these erasures occur because the accused, by a final judgment, is found not guilty of the charge or the charge is dismissed. We read that as stating that the accused is innocent. We are also concerned about an individual's right to equal protection under the law and the presumption of innocence.

We question why these records should be available to issuing authorities: "or (3) to a municipality's chief of police or selectman or to a warden of a borough of the municipality, as the case may be, for the sole purpose of determining whether a person who is the subject of such records is a suitable person to carry a pistol or revolver pursuant to section 29-28, or to the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners for the sole purpose of determining an appeal by such person concerning such suitability pursuant to section 29-32b. Such disclosure of such records is subject also to any records destruction program pursuant to which the records may have been destroyed."

We urge Rejection. Thank you.