

SB 442 public hearing 3/14/2016

Regarding Proposed bill S.B. No. 442 'AN ACT CONCERNING A VICTIM'S RIGHT TO BE REASONABLY PROTECTED FROM A PERSON ACCUSED OF COMMITTING A CRIME'

I am writing in opposition to SB442. Specifically the section that changes entry conditions for veterans getting into pre-trial programs.

"Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 54-56l of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

(g) Any person who enters the program shall agree: (1) To the tolling of the statute of limitations with respect to such crime or violation; (2) to a waiver of such person's right to a speedy trial; [and] (3) to, prior to being accepted into the program, transfer, deliver or surrender any pistol, revolver, other firearm or ammunition in accordance with section 29-36k, as amended by this act; and (4) to any conditions that may be established by the division concerning participation in the supervised diversionary program including conditions concerning participation in meetings or sessions of the program.

This section forces a veteran to give up his firearms prior to having had any trial. As in all the other flawed bills since the passage of PA-3-13, no provision is made for the return of "black rifles" or extended capacity magazines, those subject to the ban imposed by Public Act 3-13 and prior statute. No timeframe is mandated for the return of property, nor is there a timeframe for return of the Carry permit if it was required to be surrendered. Return of the permit is subject to the whim of the police, and a review hearing in front of the Firearms Permit Board of Examiners is now running close to 29 months backlogged. This effectively deprives the owner of a permit from the right to exercise it for over 2 years!

This is in blatant violation of the accused rights.

I urge the committee to oppose this bill due to its unequal effect on veterans.

Sincerely,
William D. Curlew
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