



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

March 3, 2016

Sen. Timothy Larson, Co-Chairman
Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection supports **Senate Bill No. 20 – An Act Concerning the Ration of Alcohol in the Blood for Carrying a Firearm While Intoxicated and for Hunting While Intoxicated**, and sincerely thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.

The Department strongly supports the Governor's commonsense proposal to achieve conformity among the legal blood alcohol limits for driving and boating under the influence and carrying a firearm under the influence and hunting under the influence. Revising the limit for carrying a firearm or hunting under the influence from 0.10 to .08 ensures a level of public safety that is consistent with limits for operating a car or a boat and will ensure enforcement is uniform. Additionally, the bill lowers the legal limit for individuals under 21 to 0.02 blood alcohol, mirroring the limits for driving or boating under the influence.

In Public Act 02-01 and Public Act 03-244, the blood alcohol content levels were reduced from 0.10 to 0.08 for driving and boating in respectively, but corresponding changes were not made for carrying a firearm or hunting while under the influence.

Firearms and excessive consumption of alcohol are a potentially deadly combination that this proposal recognizes must be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislative proposal.