

Sgt Gerald Hanson  
Officer in Charge - Crash Reconstruction Unit  
Waterbury Police Department  
255 E Main Street  
Waterbury, CT 06702  
Office: (203)346-3975

House Bill 5632  
Judiciary Committee  
Public Hearing: 3/21/2016

Please Oppose HB 5632 -

An act concerning an accident report for a motor vehicle accident in which person was killed.

My name is Gerald Hanson and I am currently a Sergeant with the Waterbury Police Department. I have 14 years as a certified police officer and within those years I have become a POST certified instructor in the field of Accident investigation, and Motor Vehicle Law. Additionally, I was a Field Training Officer, and a Crisis Intervention Team member. Prior to becoming a Sergeant, I was promoted to and served as a Detective. I currently supervise 7 certified Crash Reconstructionists who are assigned to the unit. I have been a certified reconstructionist since 2004, having attended the University of North Florida, Institute of Police Technology and Management in Jacksonville, FL. I also hold a B.S in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven.

Since becoming a reconstructionist, I have completed approximately 100 investigations involving people who were seriously injured and/or died as a result of an accident. In addition to my personal investigations, I have supervised several hundred similar investigations. In my recollection, I can not remember an instance where we could not determine a cause and/or violation of law. I will admit, many accidents are an unintended set of unfortunate circumstances. I know from my experience the officers assigned to my division are nothing more than consummate professionals who strive to complete the most thorough, fair and impartial investigations. In addition to my own investigators I have had the opportunity to work with many officers from the State Police and other agencies. I do not feel there is any issue with the current investigative process, its' investigators, training, etc. This proposed bill appears to presume that there is.

A major issue I have with language such as proposed HB5632 are the instances in which I may have to testify in open court about an investigation. I fear that forcing the hand of the State and municipalities to hire outside investigators will effectively impugn my investigation and leave doubt in the eyes of a jury where doubt didn't exist before. By hiring outside "experts" the City is essentially hiring a company to reinvestigate what an "expert" already investigated. Many Reconstructionists are recognized as experts through the courts and have proven their abilities and investigative skill. This bill essentially forces the State and Municipalities to reinvestigate themselves when already paying for highly trained reconstructionists.

Lastly, this legislation only benefits those private firms who would contract with State and Local government.

Sincerely,  
SGT Gerald Hanson #641