



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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| H.B. No. 5540<br>&<br>H.B. No. 5540 |
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**Public Hearing:**                      **March 23, 2018**  
**Judiciary Committee**

**The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**  
**Chief Paul Melanson**  
**Chief L. J. Fusaro**  
**Chief Scott Sansom**  
**Chief Robert Rosado**

**H.B. No. 5540 AN ACT CONCERNING GHOST GUNS AND THE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS** and,

**H.B. No. 5542 – AN ACT CONCERNING BUMP STOCKS AND OTHER MEANS OF ENHANCING THE RATE OF FIRE OF A FIREARM.**

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports House Bill 5540, “An act concerning ghost guns and the permit application process” and House Bill 5542 “An act concerning the bump stocks and other means of enhancing the rate of fire of firearms.”

Both acts would have significant positive implications on police investigations as well as ensuring community safety. For the past several years, Law Enforcement across the country has responded to a number of “Active Shooter” incidents that resulted in a large numbers of mass casualties and many injured individuals. Some suspects in these mass shootings are alleged to have increased the number of casualties by enhancing the rate of fire on their weapons. It is important to have accountability and reduce the number of firearms and/or weapons with aftermarket parts, such as bump stocks, to enhance the rate of fire.

GHOST guns are easily accessible for purchase by individuals of all ages, therefore, can land in the hands of any individual with a mind set to carry out illegal intentions. The suspects in many of the school shootings across the country involved former students or students of those schools. These acts can protect innocent individuals from those attempting to illegally obtaining, manufacturing and/or altering firearms.

Recently as of Friday, March 16, 2018, the Willimantic Police Department was alerted by a parent of a 14 year old receiving a portion of a GHOST gun kit which was the “frame or lower receiver” of a firearm. An investigation revealed that the 14 year old also purchased the upper portion and assembly pieces to complete the “manufacture or the assembling” of a capable firearm. This investigation led to

a 17 year old who also received a lower cast portion of a rifle. This is only one example of GHOST gun parts landing in the hands of juveniles or individuals with illegal intentions.

The Connecticut Police Chief's Association is committed to reducing gun violence and increasing the safety in our communities. Implementing these acts can protect our communities and provide steps to ensure those only with the right to legally obtain a firearm can do so. In both cases, the proposed legislation closes loop-holes in current laws that allow the purchase, manufacturing and/or enhancing of firearms that circumvent the spirit and intent of current laws.

*No person may sell, offer to sell, otherwise transfer or offer to transfer, purchase, possess, use or manufacture any rate of fire enhancement.*