

Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-161

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST HIRING POLICE OFFICERS DISMISSED FOR MALFEASANCE OR WHO RESIGNED OR

Title: RETIRED WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION.

Vote Date: 3/8/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/3/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security

Co-sponsor(s):

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.

Rep. Ben McGorty, 122nd Dist.

Rep. Christine Palm, 36th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would block police departments from being able to hire any police officer who has previously been fired for serious misconduct or who left law enforcement while under investigation. This bill would put an end the unfairness when it comes to hiring a police officer. It would stop allowing officers to misconduct without getting serious consequences and/or the opportunity to just get hired elsewhere and continue doing what they got fired for in the first place.

Proposed Substitute Language

The changes in the proposed substitute language clarify that Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall not certify any police officer who was dismissed for malfeasance or other serious misconduct.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Office of the Commissioner supports the bill. It is vital that Connecticut holds law enforcement to the highest standards

and this bill would enforce the prohibition on employment of police officer who have been terminated, resigned, or retired while under investigation or dismissed due to serious misconduct by denying or withholding certification.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT

CHRISTOPHER DUKES, JUSTICE 4 DUKES COALITION SUPPORTS THE BILL. SEPARATING THOSE WHO DISHONOR THE PROFESSION FROM THOSE WHO RESPECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS AND WILLFULLY PROTECT AND SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES WHO DIGNITY.

Natasha M Pierre, State Victim Advocate-Office of Victim Advocate State of CT supports the bill. This bill will ensure that when a Connecticut police officer is dismissed for serious misconduct, that person will not simply go to next town and repeat incidents that they have done before.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Brian Anderson, Legislative Director-Council AFSCME opposes the bill. This bill allows a municipality and possibly a police officer to seek a hearing on an officer being recertified.

David Godbout, opposes the bill. Does not support any bills

Reported by: Fabializ N Najera

Date: 3/9/2022