



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Chairmen Winfield and Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and the distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association (CPCA) is an association that represents the interests of all the police chiefs in the state. Collectively, the members of the association oversee the operation of over 7,000 law enforcement personnel and close to 100 law enforcement agencies. CPCA would like to offer its comments on the following bills.

SB 304 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLICE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association **cannot support this bill** as it is currently written. Sections 6 through 25 of this bill would create a primary and secondary traffic violation system to be enforced on Connecticut roads. While we believe that we understand and support the intent of the legislation some of the violations that would become secondary are problematic. For example, the inability of a police officer to stop a motorist for violations such as defective lighting or missing rearview or side mirror creates a serious public safety hazard in our opinion. What is the incentive for the motorist to fix the problem if they know the police cannot stop them? Or in some cases they may not know their light is out unless someone tells them. Perhaps lowering the fines for these violations or even making them a warning only for a first offense is a better option. We have to consider the danger that having unsafe vehicles on the road creates for other motorists and pedestrians. If the Legislature believes that an offense does not impose a serious safety threat to other motorists or pedestrians on the road, then perhaps the offense should be taken off the books in its entirety.

SB 306 AN ACT CONCERNING DECEPTIVE INTERROGATION TACTICS.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association **does not support this bill**. Currently, detectives have a limited scope of tactics they are able to use on suspects who they believe have committed serious offenses. These offenses range from murder, rape, and kidnapping, as well as abuses to some of Connecticut's most vulnerable residents. The tactics that are used by detectives also have limits, which have been clearly established by the courts. A detective cannot use a fake DNA test and claim that the test shows the suspect's DNA on an item or in an area. In addition to this, the law requires that every single Class A and B felony arrest has to be recorded when a suspect is interviewed. That video is available to defense attorneys and court officials for further review. With the passage of Public Act 11-174, everything must be recorded, and any interrogation that is not recorded is deemed to be a negative inference.

In section 1 of SB 306, there are many different physical limitation in how a suspect can and cannot be treated. In Connecticut, police departments have policies that state that suspects who are detained shall be granted water and three meals a day in a twenty-four hour period. There is also a subsection of section 1 that states that a suspect or other person cannot be threatened with physical force. Law enforcement officials in Connecticut are not physically harming suspects. This would be morally wrong and subject the department to being sued. It is also important to remember that all of these interviews with suspect are being recorded when a detective is interacting with a suspect. This bill is not necessary because Connecticut police departments have policies preventing these types of actions.