

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6873

AN ACT REQUIRING THE POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND PROMULGATE A MODEL POLICY REQUIRING THE USE OF A SEAT SAFETY BELT FOR ANY PERSON WHO IS BEING

Title: TRANSPORTED IN A MUNICIPAL POLICE VEHICLE.

Vote Date: 3/31/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/13/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The intent of the bill is to help prevent the injury of detained individuals during transportation by requiring the use of seat belts. This bill would require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop and promulgate a model policy requiring the use of a seat safety belt for any person who is being transported in a municipal police vehicle and create a process for addressing an alleged violation of such policy.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Louis Schlunta: He testified that police officers need support, to be respected and not be treated with disrespect from the criminals who resist arrest, take swings at them, or gunned down like what happened in the fall of 2022 in Bristol.

Laura Copeland: She testified in support of this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Council of Police AFL-CIO: They testified that they believe it is current policy in most police departments to belt suspects into the police cars. He explained, however, that there are times when it is not possible and asks that language be included to cover such situations. He also stated that there are times when suspects are very combative, especially when they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There are instances where it takes everything that officers have to simply get a suspect into the back of a police car. They specifically oppose subsection (b), which mandates that POST investigate and punish officers who did not seat belt in a suspect; this is quite a departure from normal discipline procedures.

James McGovern: He testified in opposition to the bill, asking several questions about what the policy would look like and how it would be applied.

Reported by: George Marinelli

Date: April 4, 2023