



Legislative Testimony

765 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
860.523.9146 (T)
www.acluct.org
info@acluct.org

Written Testimony Supporting H.B. 7093, An Act Concerning Notification to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council

Senators Larson and Guglielmo, Representative Verrengia, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is David McGuire, and I am the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). As an organization committed to defending civil liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut Constitutions, the ACLU-CT strongly supports measures to ensure fair, equal public safety practices and justice. As a result, I am here to urge you to support H.B. 7093.

In 2014, the General Assembly passed a critical update to Connecticut's police use of force law. This groundbreaking legislation included a provision that required any law enforcement agency that had employed a former police officer who was fired for serious misconduct or who resigned or retired while under investigation for serious misconduct to notify another department if the former officer applied for a new police officer position within another department. By requiring this notification, the General Assembly intended to improve transparency and communication between police departments to prevent problem officers from shuffling between agencies and committing misconduct in additional communities.

Several years after this law's passage, however, it is clear that police departments need a centralized repository to more efficiently and easily access information about potentially problematic job applicants. By requiring departments to notify the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) each time a police officer is fired for misconduct or resigns or retires while under a misconduct investigation, H.B. 7093 would close a loophole in Connecticut's existing use of force law. It would allow departments to more quickly determine whether an applicant is a potential liability or threat to the community, and it would save former police officers' departments time and resources. Most importantly, it would provide another stopgap to prevent former officers who have committed serious misconduct from harming communities or colleagues anew.

We urge you to support H.B. 7093.