

PA13-192

HB6375

House	3068-3073	6
Public Safety	612-613	2
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 9
2743 - 3085**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Will Members please return to the Chamber
immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members
voted? Will the Members please check the board to
make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, the machine will
be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk
please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6329 as amended by House "A" and "B".

Total Number voting 139

Necessary for Passage 70

Those voting Yea 131

Those voting Nay 8

Those absent and not voting 11

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 69.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number 69 on Page 39 of today's
Calendar, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing
Committee on Planning and Development, House Bill 6375
AN ACT CONCERNING UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill just simply makes it to OPM why it's important to get crime statistics from our communities to get federal grant monies to go back to our municipalities, so this basically, that's basically what this bill will do now.

It will give our communities the opportunity to submit data in that opportunity to us as a state to receive our fair share of federal dollars, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

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Thank you, sir. Do you care to remark? Do you care to remark on the bill that's before us?

Representative Candelora, you have the floor, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that this underlying bill is sort of codifying a current practice where there's a concern that these crime reports are not submitted in a timely fashion.

One of my concerns is that municipalities need to know the ramifications of not providing these, and so the Clerk is in possession of LCO 6171, and I ask that it be called and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 6171, which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO 6171, House Amendment "A" as offered by
Representative Candelora et al.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentleman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Is there objection? You may proceed to summarization, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the situation where a municipality might not have submitted one of these reports as required, what this Amendment would do is, require that when the municipality is notified by OPM, that they would, in that notice include a statement of what the consequences would be for failure to comply with the reporting of these reports.

And with that, I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark? Will you remark further on the Amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Amendment please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, Nay? The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted. Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th);

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. I think that it's important that if we are going to subject towns to penalties that certainly they should know what those would be, so I think that this bill

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has certainly been improved and I will support it.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Do you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Giegler of the 138th; you have the floor, madam.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill before us when instituted in other states, has found that their compliance has risen significantly, so I think this is a good bill and I urge my colleagues' support. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you madam. Do you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Do you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

The House of Representative is voting by Roll.

Will Members please return to the Chamber immediately.

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SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Just so the Members know, we're going to be doing a number of bills in relatively quick order, so if you can stay near or close to the Chamber or in the Chamber preferably that would be good. We're not going to be holding the votes open.

I also understand it's hard to hear upstairs so it might be good to stick around for that reason as well.

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? Will the Members please check the board to make sure your votes are properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6375 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those voting Yea	141
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	9

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

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PART 16
4803 - 5160**

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SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And if the Clerk would call as the next item calendar page 24, Calendar 566, House Bill 6375.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

On page 24, Calendar 566, House Bill Number 6375, AN ACT CONCERNING UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS, favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety and Security.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Good evening again, Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report, sir, and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House as amended by House "A."

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage in concurrence, will you remark, madam?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes. Thank you. Indeed I will.

This bill simply authorizes OPM to deny any eligibility for a law-enforcement grant, that be and state or federal law-enforcement grant, to a municipality who's police department is not in compliance with the state uniform crime reporting system.

It is a very labor-intensive process to gather this

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data and to report it. We in the State of Connecticut have a uniform crime reporting system, but we then in turn report it to the feds, to the FBI. And this is just in an effort to try to draw attention and get some compliance so that we can indeed meet the requirements by which the State must comply.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, I have a couple questions to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

What exactly -- I'm looking at the OLR analysis and it talks about the background, but if you could just give me a little bit more of your knowledge as the public safety chairman of the actual UCR program or the --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

Not all states have a uniform crime reporting program. We here in the State do and it is housed through the

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DESPP, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. It basically is a repository for the collection of crime data by which the State funds its policy and performs analysis on the data as well as reporting it to the FBI who also do the same. And it is used in the policymaking with regard to law-enforcement initiatives.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And it sounds like it's something that our towns and municipalities would be doing already. Is there something onerous inherently that prevents them from doing it now? I mean, you know, I guess my question is why wouldn't the towns be doing this already and why the need for this requirement if they are doing so already?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Kane, yes indeed, the majority of towns are doing it. It is more of an effort to take care of the about 15 percent of the towns who are not, who are not compliant either completely and providing the data on the assigned intervals or sometimes providing incomplete reports which then makes it impossible to do the analysis and also report it to the feds.

So you'll notice that the words say that OPM may make a decision about funding. This is basically kind of, you know, we talked about the carrot and stick. This

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is the stick and is just basically about trying to bring everybody on compliance also so that we can be very efficient and what we're doing and not have to devote duplicative or unnecessary personnel to these requirements.

Thank you, Mr. President. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And through you to Senator Hartley, if towns are not being compliant is it because of lack of technology? Lack of staff? What be the reason that this 10 or 15 percent are not compliant as of right now?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Kane, I cannot tell you specifically what goes on in those individual PDs. I'm imagining that it could be a number of things that perhaps there might be personnel who are responsible for this, who might be on leave. It could be that there may be other more pressing duties.

I would point to, for example, the Newtown PD in the month of December And I am sure in an instance like this the office of OPM would simply say, hey, by the way, we are waiting on your report. So it's, I'm sure, is a multiple of reasons.

And through you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And one last question, if I may? Does this include towns with a resident state trooper?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

Yes, it does. The initiative is so that we have complete crime data which represents the state of Connecticut.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

So if, like for example, I have a couple small towns in my district that have a resident state trooper and if this bill says that if their police force, which in -- to the answer of the previous question by Senator Hartley was, a resident state trooper fails to comply, then OPM has the ability to deny a grant to the town even though it's the State that didn't comply, because the State is actually the police force for the town?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Kane, the goal is to have complete statistics that reflect the state and reflect it accurately. And in the instance where it's in their own house, I think that it would probably be dealt with pretty directly. But yes, indeed they could perhaps. Once again. I point out to you the language says, they may.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I think that's a good piece of information there that the -- may versus shall, because that would trouble me if a small municipality, like a couple that I represent in my district, who use a resident state trooper and if they theoretically have this State as their police force, and if the State didn't comply with the State, the municipality would then suffer the consequences.

So I would imagine by you using the word "may" they would take that into consideration and I would appreciate that, I guess, through OPM's dealing with this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And if there is no objection, I would ask this to be also added to the consent calendar, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, the next items to be marked go, would like to mark Calendar page 4, Calendar 475, Senate Bill 1052; to be followed by calendar page 23, Calendar 380, Senate Bill 1054; and then, excuse me Mr. President, calendar page 17, Calendar 678, House Bill 6671; and calendar page 17, Calendar 677, House Bill 6644.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

On page 4, Calendar 475, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 1052, AN ACT CONCERNING IMPROVED TAX COLLECTION, favorable report of the Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

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Page 3, Calendar 422, Senate Bill 978; on page 4, Calendar 475, Senate Bill 1052; on page 8, Calendar 567, House Bill 6387; Calendar 568, House Bill 6445; and Calendar 580, House Bill 6623.

On page 9, Calendar 583, House Bill 5149; and Calendar 590, House Bill 6680; page 10, Calendar 607, House Bill 6688; and calendar 608, House Bill 6384.

Page 11, Calendar 612, House Bill 6448; and Calendar 621, House Bill 6488. On page 12, Calendar 634, House Bill 6403; and Calendar 636, House Bill 6394; page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill 6454; and page 14, Calendar 652, House Bill 6702.

On page 16, Calendar 674, House Bill 6441; page 17, Calendar 677, House Bill 6644; on page 18, Calendar 685, House Bill 6009; and on page 23, Calendar 380 Senate Bill 1054; page 24, Calendar 452, Senate Bill 1142; and Calendar 566, House Bill 6375.

Page 25, Calendar 646, House Bill 5844; and on page 26, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 1019.

THE CHAIR:

At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on a first consent calendar?

The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators, please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call on the first consent calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted? All members have voted. The machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally?

THE CLERK:

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June 4, 2013

The first consent calendar.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of all items acted on thus far today requiring additional action in that chamber.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also, Madam President, on an item previously placed on the foot of the Calendar, would now seek to remove that item and just mark it PR, and that is an item calendar page 16, Calendar 672, House Bill 5480, AN ACT PROHIBITING TAMPERING WITH HYDRANTS. Would just move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it PR.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 2
378 - 749**

2013



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

February 21, 2013

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6375 - AN ACT CONCERNING UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

***The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
supports this bill.***

Current law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to notify the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) when a municipality is not in compliance with the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). This proposal will give OPM the authority to deny eligibility for state and federal law enforcement grants if a municipality is not in compliance.

There are currently no penalties in place for law enforcement agencies that are not in compliance in their UCR data submissions. DESPP Crimes Analysis staff spends hundreds of hours each year calling and emailing agencies that have incomplete and/or inaccurate data. Other states have instituted similar legislation and have seen huge increases in the number of agencies in compliance. The state of New York posts delinquent agencies on their website; they also have the authority to withhold funding. After instituting this system, the state of New York saw UCR compliance go from 60% to 95%.

This proposal would result in significant savings to DESPP, and would free up time to work on further automation of the unit's crime reporting. Further automation would also provide the reporting agencies and other users of the data with better information from which to make decisions and for possible use in grant applications.

Sincerely,

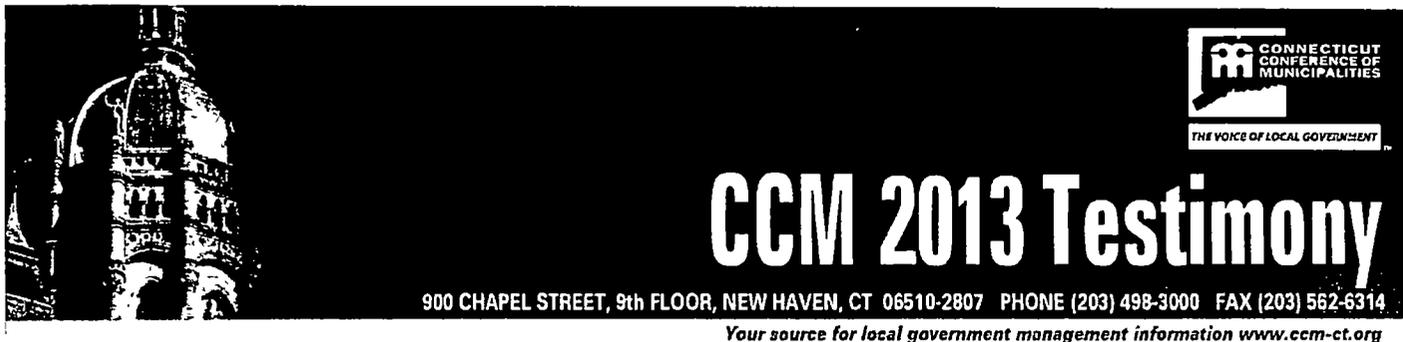
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reuben F. Bradford".

Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2013

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 6375 AN ACT CONCERNING UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

This proposal would amend the Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection's (DESPP) statewide uniform crime reporting process with regard to municipal police departments' that do not properly file their reports. As proposed, if a local police department does not properly file their reports, the DESPP Commissioner would notify the State Office of Policy & Management (OPM) and the municipal CEO that such information is missing. HB 6375 would then provide OPM with the discretion to deny municipalities' eligibility for state and federal law enforcement grants if such information is not properly reported within 60 days.

It is no secret that towns and cities have been forced to do more with less during these unprecedented fiscal times – and currently manage the local bottom line with limited resources – both personnel and financial. To this end, **CCM has concerns over the policy and fiscal implications this proposal would impose by potentially denying hometowns critical funds used to keep our communities safe due to administrative errors.**

CCM urges the committee to take no action on HB 6375.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Associate of CCM via email mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 500-7556.