

02/21/2021

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Lampson and I've been a police officer in Connecticut since 1990. I am submitting written testimony regarding H.B. 6462.

Before commenting on the specific concerns of H.B. 6462, its important to mention that these issues were born out of H.B.6004, now Public Act 20-1, which, in my opinion, was hastily built from a foundation of emotion and politics rather than any factual or substantive data. Public Act 20-1 is rife with legal contradictions which undermine decades of established law, case law and jurisprudence. This bill has created a chasm of ambiguity and uncertainty for police officers statewide.

My understanding is that H.B. 6462 was proposed to address specific language under section 29 of Public Act 20-1 (Use of Force by a Police Officer), which is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2021. H.B. 6462 is proposing that the April 1, 2021 date be extended until October 1, 2022.

Providing additional time to compare what's currently written under Public Act 20-1, against the volume of established case law already in existence, which has provided police officers in Connecticut with clear and unambiguous guidance in deadly force encounters, should be the goal of this committee. The committee should be striving to take what will arguably be the most impactful and violent situation of a police officers career and life, and not aim to clutter it with confounding language, but rather support it, and provide that officer with same meaningful confidence, courage and protections he or she is expected to dutifully exhibit in a deadly force encounter. To achieve this, more discussion is required.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you pass this bill in order to afford more time for meaningful discussion and examination of this specific section under Public Act 20-1.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Lampson