

Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 1, 2011

The Honorable Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am hereby returning without my signature Senate Bill 888, *An Act Exempting Certified Police Officers From Telecommunicator Training*. The expressed reason advanced by proponents of this bill is that the telecommunicator training required by the Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications is duplicative of training received by police officers who are certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) and are also certified as medical response technicians (MRTs). Unfortunately, this rationale does not fully capture or address some of the issues involved.

To avoid duplication in training, the standard six day telecommunicator training has already been shortened for police officers to a one and one-half day training that covers only those areas that are not adequately addressed in the POST basic training and MRT training. Such areas include: Interpersonal Communications and Stress in the Workplace; Telephone Techniques and Telecommunications for the Deaf; Modern Communications Systems; Broadcast Guidelines; Enhanced 911 and Fire and Emergency Medical Service Operations.

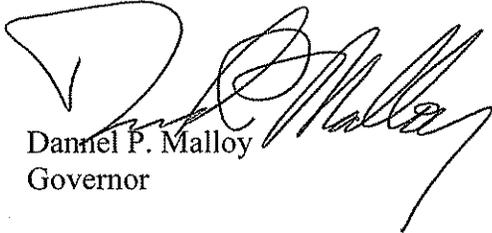
A demonstration of proficiency in these areas ensures that the public is served during emergencies in a manner that is *at a minimum* consistent with the standards required by law. Such a demonstration also helps to minimize litigation risk for police officers and first responders from lawsuits by ensuring that they have been appropriately trained in the skills necessary to properly answer, process and dispatch 9-1-1 calls.

Current law already requires the Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications to issue a written acknowledgement of achievement without participation in a telecommunicator training to anyone, including a police officer, who demonstrates that, as a result of prior experience or specialized training, that person has the requisite competence to perform in accordance with the telecommunicator standards developed by such office.

Given that 1) current law already provides for an individual who demonstrates the requisite skills to receive an acknowledgement of achievement without having to take the telecommunicator training and 2) several skills necessary to perform as a 9-1-1 telecommunicator are inadequately addressed in the POST basic training and MRT training, I concur with the Department of Public Safety's position on this bill. This legislation, while well intended, is unnecessary and against the public's interest.

For these reasons, I disapprove of Senate Bill 888, *An Act Exempting Certified Police Officers From Telecommunicator Training*. Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning Senate Bill 888 without my signature.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Malloy
Governor