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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL #2247

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

I appear before you today on behalf of the 38,000 Active and Pensioned professional Law Enforcement Officers, who comprise the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, to address the provisions of House Bill #2247.

This Bill seeks to establish a Certification Program for "privately employed agents," as they are defined in the Lethal Weapons Training Act of October 10, 1974. That statute defines "privately employed agents," as "any person employed for the purpose of providing watch guard, protective patrol, detective or criminal investigative services either for another or for a fee, or for his employer. Privately employed agents, do not include local, state or federal government employees....but shall include a Police Officer of a municipal authority." Completion of the Training Program, which is voluntary, would entitle the graduate to be called a "Certified privately employed agents." Being "Certified," grants no greater power or authority to what private detectives and security guards presently have. If this Bill were designed to expand upon those powers, the Fraternal Order of Police would take a position to oppose that Legislation.

While the F.O.P. certainly approves and supports Education and Training Programs for anyone whose employment requires them to be armed, certain questions arise from our reading of this proposal. First, among those is: Why this additional Training is optional? Shouldn't it be mandatory and made part of the Lethal Weapons Training Act?

Another question is: Why those who have completed Municipal Police Training are exempt, but those who have completed State Police, FBI, or other similar training are not? While these are not matters of pressing concern, we believe they should be considered.

Overall, the position of the Fraternal Order of Police regarding this Legislation is one of neutrality. We do, however, wish to express our gratitude for giving us the opportunity to address this issue.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

MICHAEL G. LUTZ, President
Pennsylvania State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police

