

*My former agency and/or my state is not familiar with the new law and they have no procedure in place to qualify me and issue me the required document stating that I have met the active duty law enforcement standards for qualification with the firearm I intend to carry. What should I do?*

Many states and/or agencies may not have fully acquainted themselves with this law's effects, nor considered how they can or will qualify retired officers. NAPO recommends that retired members first check with their former agencies, if they live close enough to them to make it practicable, to see what options might be available. The next recommended step would be to contact the State Attorney General, the State Police, or whatever state agency has the authority over law enforcement officer standards and training to learn the latest information on how the states are going to qualify retired officers. If you continue to meet resistance from your agency and/or state in receiving the required documents, you may want to consult a lawyer to determine your next possible actions toward being able to carry under H.R. 218. Additionally, NAPO is actively supporting new Federal legislation that, if passed, will make it easier for officers to carry under the Federal law. Please see the article about **Senator Kyl's** bill (S. 1605) below:

### **Senator Kyl Sponsored Bill to Improve H.R. 218**

On July 29, 2005, **Senator Jon Kyl** (R-AZ) introduced the "Law-Enforcement Officers' Safety Act," S. 1605, which will help ensure that H.R. 218 will be easily, fairly, and broadly implemented. Specifically, Section 8 of Senator Kyl's legislation will reduce the number of years a law enforcement officer has to serve in order to qualify to carry, from 15 years down to 10 years. The bill also designates new forms of identification that can be used by qualified law enforcement officers whose agencies or states refuse to issue the certification required by H.R. 218.

NAPO worked hard to get H.R. 218 passed in 2004 and continues to be frustrated by the difficulty some of our members are experiencing in being able to exercise the right to carry conferred by the law. NAPO is actively supporting the "Law-Enforcement Officers' Safety Act" and Senator Kyl's efforts to ensure that all qualified off-duty and retired officers across the nation will be able to carry firearms for the protection of themselves, their families and our nation's communities, as intended by H.R. 218. Here is the language we are supporting:

### **S. 1605, Sec. 8 SEC. 8. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' SAFETY ACT.**

Section 926C of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (c)—
  - (A) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking 'was regularly employed as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 15 years or more' and inserting 'served as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 10 years or more' **[this drops the number of years you would have to have worked to be a qualified retiree]**; and
  - (B) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5), and designating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively **[this does away with requirements number 4 and 5 in the current definition of who is a qualified retired officer, as set out at the start of this article]**; and
- (2) in subsection (d)—
  - (A) in paragraph (1), by striking 'or' after the semicolon;
  - (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the period and inserting '; or'; and
  - (C) by adding at the end the following:
- '(3) in those States or for those law-enforcement agencies that do not issue the identification or certification required by paragraph (1) or (2)—
  - '(A) an identification issued by the agency from which the individual retired from service as a law enforcement officer;
  - '(B) a photographic identification issued by an agency of the State in which the individual resides, such as a driver's license or a State identification card; and
  - '(C) a document issued by the State in which the individual resides that either certifies that the individual is authorized by the laws of that State to carry a concealed firearm, or, in those States that do not provide mandatory and objective standards for the issuance of such a license, certifies that the individual has received training in the safe handling of firearms or has completed a firearms safety or training course for security guards or investigators.' **[this would provide another, easier, way for officers to satisfy the requirements for what ID and credentials they need to have with them while carrying a concealed firearm]** ●

## **NAPO JOINS SENATORS LEAHY AND SPECTER IN PUSHING FOR MORE BULLETPROOF VEST GRANT FUNDING**



*Executive Director Bill Johnson emphasizes the necessity of bulletproof vests to the press, while Senator Leahy and other law enforcement officials look on.*

NAPO joined the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, **Senators Arlen Specter** (R-PA) and **Patrick Leahy** (D-VT), along with other leaders in the law enforcement community, at a news conference on May 15 on Capitol Hill. The news conference was part of a bipartisan effort to convince Congress to fully fund the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program at \$50 million. The president's proposed budget would cut this critical, life-saving program by 60 percent, or \$20 million, from last year's level, leaving it at an inadequate \$9 million. ●

## **NAPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **SENATE PASSES AMENDMENT TO COMPENSATE FIRST RESPONDERS WHO SUFFER ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM NEW PANDEMIC FLU VACCINES**

On May 3, the Senate passed an amendment to the Emergency Supplemental spending bill, H.R. 4939, that would ensure that police officers, firefighters, and health care professionals are provided compensation should they suffer injury from any new pandemic flu vaccinations. The amendment, sponsored by **Senator Joe Biden** (D-DE) and **Senator Ted Kennedy** (D-MA), appropriates \$289 million to fund the pandemic flu vaccine compensation injury program for first responders.

NAPO has been a leading proponent of such legislation since 2002, when there was an effort to vaccinate first responders against smallpox. At that time, the nation experienced a situation in which some of the first responders who accepted vaccines in the public interest risked previously unpredicted adverse medical consequences. NAPO salutes Congress for

choosing once again to stand with us in our fight to protect our nation's first responders. It is ultimately a civic obligation to provide compensation to public servants who suffer injuries from the vaccines.

The Senate's emergency supplemental spending measure appropriates \$108.9 billion in funding—\$14 million over the House version and the \$94.5 billion limit set for the legislation. With the President threatening to veto the bill and a fight looming with the House in conference negotiations, the pandemic flu vaccine compensation amendment could be in jeopardy. NAPO will continue to monitor the status of this important amendment to ensure that it is included in the conference report of H.R. 4939.

*(June update for May's Executive Director's Report)*

### **FIRST RESPONDER FLU COMPENSATION CUT FROM EMERGENCY SPENDING BILL**

On June 8, the House and Senate conferees finally struck a deal on a \$94.5 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Unfortunately, that deal included striking from the conference report \$289 million for a vaccine compensation program that would have ensured that police officers, firefighters, and health care professionals be provided compensation should they suffer injury from any new pandemic flu vaccinations.

The emergency spending bill, H.R. 4939, does provide \$2.3 billion towards the preparation and response to the threat of avian flu, including \$250 million for state and local govern-

ment block grants. The Fiscal 2006 Emergency Supplemental was signed into law by the President on June 15.

NAPO will continue to work with Congress to see that public safety officers who suffer adverse affects from vaccinations will be protected by a federal compensation program. We thank Senators Joe Biden and Ted Kennedy for their efforts to include and retain in the conference report the funding for the pandemic flu vaccine compensation injury program for first responders. We appreciate all they have done for the law enforcement community. ●

## **The Top Ten Most Violent Jobs**

**Jobs with the highest rates of workplace violence**

1. Police officers
2. Corrections officers
3. Cab drivers
4. Security guards
5. Bartenders
6. Custodians
7. Special Education teachers
8. Gas station workers
9. Junior high teachers
10. Convenience store workers