

Our conversation has centered around concerns about funding this mandate and what the cost will be to towns, as well as the practicability of using soft restraints when working with a non-compliant subject.

It is generally understood that soft restraints are only safely applicable for compliant transports, and that cuffs are the standard for a combative transport from a safety standpoint. To attempt to employ them on a non-compliant subject is simply neither practical nor safe for the officer/officers involved.

As soft restraints are not currently standard issue, this will be a new expense to departments and the towns that support them, another important note is that once a soft restraint gets bodily fluids on it it has to be discarded and replaced so the expense to towns will be ongoing rather than a one time cost.

We hope that your committee will consider these concerns in your deliberations.

Best Regards,

Mike Covey
Vermont Police Association