

March 14, 2008

**Testimony by
Anne Kelly-Lenz
Tax Collector
City of Bridgeport**

Before the Judiciary Committee

**Regarding:
SB 602-AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION OF
DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES**

Good Morning, My name is Anne Kelly-Lenz and I am the Tax Collector for the City of Bridgeport. I am here today to oppose bill # 602, Delinquent Motor Vehicles. Passing this bill will be detrimental to the City in its efforts to collect motor vehicle taxes due to the City. Bridgeport has a large transient population, which makes it incredibly difficult to collect taxes when due. Along with this issue is the fact that residents have found ways around the system to avoid paying taxes for several years. One example of this situation is a resident who registered their car using 4 deviations of their name. We finally found the resident and he owed approximately 9 thousand in taxes over 5 years. This is not the exception but the rule.

Currently the City bills in 2 installments if the tax amount is over \$100.00. We send out the bills in July and January. We also send the demand notice in March and the alias tax warrant in April. Just this year the City has also decided to send an additional reminder in September. These additional expenses are being shouldered by the residents who pay their taxes when due.

This year alone the City sent out 76,000 motor vehicle bills with approximately 10,000 returned for invalid addresses. The City is doing everything in its power to get the bills to the correct locations but we are dependant on the residents doing what is expected of them; changing their address with the Department of Motor Vehicle in a timely manner. In April of this year, I will be sending out approximately 35,000 alias tax warrants for unpaid motor vehicle taxes.

Approving this bill will empower the residents to avoid paying taxes altogether in the City of Bridgeport. I strongly recommend that this bill be stopped.

Thank you.

Anne Kelly-Lenz
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