

ADL BAIL BONDS

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I'd like to thank the Chair and all members of the committees.

My name is Agnes De Leon, I service the Windham area of Connecticut as a Bail Bond Agent and have been since 1996. I am speaking against bill 5835, even though that there are certain section that I agree with and certain language that should be changed.

Hopefully, I can provide some insight that will be helpful for everyone. Any questions that anyone may have, I will be more than happy to answer if I can.

Attached you will find my testimony.

Again, thank you.

Section 1- Speaks about us forwarding the money we collected to the insurer, so the insurer intern can pay us our earnings. This section gears on controlling the undercutting.

This section means that I am no longer an independent worker. I have an employer who will now mail me my paycheck from out of State on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. If and when I receive my paycheck, I would hope that all State and Federal Taxes are deducted, that I have medical coverage and a pension plan. Everything that full time permanent employee's receive, I would like to have that too.

This section eliminates my home office, accountant, I will no longer have all the responsibilities associated with being self employed.

Now, the insurers out of State will need to hire extra staff, and deal with everything we have been dealing with as for years. To include all state fees that Ct. requires us to pay in order to continue to business in Ct.

SECTION 2- This section speaks about eliminating the responsibility of the Insurance Department and turning it over to the Department of Public Safety. The Department of Public Safety has their own issue they need to clear up, they don't need added stress that will lead to no oversight.

However, there is added language that I feel should be implemented in this Section and this is 6-B and C (last paragraph of this section). 6-B speaks about having everyone that engages in bail bond business must be licensed.

Presently you do not have to be a licensed bail bond agent in order to manage a bail bond business.

C- Speaks about suspending the insurer license if forfeitures are not paid. This language is way overdue and it's necessary. However, not all the time are forfeitures reported and therefore it should be added that in the event a insurer or bail bond agents is unaware of this said forfeiture, they will have 30 days to provide proof that the forfeiture was never received and another six month stay should apply.

SECTION 9- This speaks about a \$10,000 cash performance bond.

This is something that every bail bond agent who is serious about their business should comply with however a \$5,000 cash performance bond is more affordable.

SECTION 11-B- This section speaks about an eight hour course for all licensed bail bond agents to be conducted every two years.

This is a great idea so long as it means that the training will be provided by a private entity. Not other Bail Bond Agents.

Presently, the course that is being offered to New Bail Bond Agents is administered by a Bail Bonds Company called Bail Co at \$600.00 per person. Asking Bail Bond Agents or Companies for an understanding of the business and make changes accordingly is okay.

However, the approval of 3 bail bond agents who own a bail bonds company was irresponsible. Although, there is no set policy that states they cannot. As a professional making this decision, I would of exercise common sense and really put thought on all the conflict and deter myself from creating more.

SECTION 17- #2 speaks about advertisement and solicitation

If we are not allowed to solicit or advertise within certain feet of the court house or any other place that a prisoner is being held. While an arraignment is going on and family members are in the Court house ready to post bond and it's a surety bond. Who will solicit and advertise for us, the shreiff's, the bail commissioner, the public defenders, the prosecutors, the judge maybe. Family members can't guess who we are. So someone is going to have to point us out. I do not think is a good idea to involve anyone else but our selves in soliciting or advertisement.

If who ever proposed this bill has friends within the judicial system the hooks them up then good for them, it saves you time on soliciting and money on advertisement. If you feel you can't handle your competitors then maybe it's time to find another job. Finally, if your competitors are in your face harassing you and your client, the Sheriff's should be able to step in and ask the bail bond agent to leave based solely on their behavior. GA11 has

no tolerance for unruly bail bond agents or anyone else. They'll walk you out in a matter of seconds. They do not enjoy watching bail bond agents making a mockery of their court.

SECTION 18- Speaks about increasing the premiums to 10%.

Were lucky if we can collect 5%. How is an increase going to help.

SECTION 27- Speaks about the Chief States Attorney's Office doing away with the Forfeiture Unit and Section 28(new) talks about moving it to the Attorney General's Office. In last year's proposal the Chief States Attorney's Office Forfeiture Unit was being proposed to be moved to the Department of Administrative Services for Collections of forfeitures.

I don't understand what the rush is. What is the move going to accomplish. Are they not collecting forfeitures the way they should, or are other jobs being created for clue less individuals to try and fix the mess of forfeiture collections.

Bail Bond Agents provide a service for profit for the State of Connecticut. Not only do they alleviate some of the over crowding in the prisons, but they also save tax payers from feeding and housing prisoners. Monitor the defendant to make sure he does not leave and when they do leave and we can't find them after six months and the bond is \$100,000.00, I have to pay them \$50,000.00 when I only collected \$7150. if not less.

**THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR
PASSAGE:**

Section 5 – The Language Change

Section 8

Section 9

Section 14

Section 15

Section 16

Section 19

Section 20

Section 21

Section 22

Section 23

Section 24

Section 26 – Also add after hours that Police Department provide us with the FTA Status because the Courts are not open.

Section 29

Section 30

Section 31 – Chief States Attorney's

Section 33

Section 34

Section 36

Section 37

Section 38

Section 39