

March 17, 2009

**Statement of David D. Biklen**

**OPPOSING the references in Section 2 of HB 6373 to Sections 2-85, 2-86, 2-87 and 2-88 and the resulting Termination of the Connecticut Law Revision Commission**

I am David Biklen, a lawyer living in Hartford. For over 22 years I had been Executive Director of the Connecticut Law Revision Commission. Although the Commission has not been funded by the legislature for about six years, the Commission continues to function with no staff.

HB 6373 proposes to eliminate the statutory authorization for the Law Revision Commission. I recommend that the GAE Committee eliminate from Section 2 of HB 6373 references to sections 2-85, 2-86, 2-87, and 2-88 that would eliminate the Commission.

Although the statement of purpose of the bill is to implement the Governor's budget proposal, elimination of the Law Revision Commission would have absolutely no impact on the state budget. That is because the Commission has no funding.

The Connecticut Law Revision Commission was created by the legislature over 35 years ago to assist in finding legislative solutions to complex legal matters. Although the legislature no longer funds the Commission, it still functions to assist the legislature in complex legal drafting matters – at no cost to the state and with no staff.

For example, a Commission advisory committee is now reviewing amendments to the Uniform Common Interest Community Act (CT's condo law) to bring it up to date. This review by the top legal practitioners in the field of condominium law is done at no cost to the legislature.

No public policy or financial reason exists to end the Commission. Maintenance of the statutory authorization for the Commission gives the legislature a process for review of complex legal matters by experienced lawyers when called upon by the legislature. It is a win-win for the General Assembly: top legal talent and advice for the legislature at no cost.

I recommend that the proposal to eliminate statutory authorization for the Law Revision Commission be dropped from HB 6373.

If you have any questions, you may contact me by email [Biklen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Biklen@sbcglobal.net) or at 233-4200.