



TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 9, 2009

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities appreciates the opportunity to testify on the following bills of interest to towns and cities:

- S.J. 63, “Resolution Proposing amendment to the Constitution of the State to Eliminate the Probate Courts”
- S.B. 1005, “An Act Concerning the Assessment of Certain Property in the Calculation of Probate Fees”
- H.B. 6007, “An Act Concerning Merger of the Probate Districts of Southbury and Roxbury”
- H.B. 6027, “An Act Concerning Probate Reforms”
- H.B. 6385, “An Act Concerning Reform of the Probate Court System”
- H.B. 6625, “An Act Concerning the Courts of Probate”
- H.B. 6627, “An Act Concerning Continuing Education for Judges of Probate and Certain Probate Court Procedures”

Municipalities are concerned about the probate system because of the important services it provides to the community. There is a strong identification and tie between probate courts and the municipalities they serve.

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A major goal of these proposals is to put the probate system on sound financial footing over the long-term.

CCM urges the Committee to draft a reform proposal in a way that does not rely on local governments to shoulder an unfair financial burden for a state judicial function.

We urge the Committee to draft a proposal that municipalities may form regional probate courts with any number of towns, and provide incentives to do so.

Further attention to these issues will result in legislation that works to the benefit of all communities, as well as the Probate Court System.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM at (203) 498-3000.