



TESTIMONY  
of the  
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES  
to the  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

February 2, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**CCM has concerns with Raised Senate Bill 772 "*Concerning the Freedom of Information Act.*"**

This bill would provide certain protections for municipalities from the requirement to post certain minute and agenda information on their websites, if they have one.

CCM appreciates the committee's efforts to address the current problem facing Connecticut municipalities regarding this new public act. However, *short of a complete repeal* of PA 08-3 of the June Special Session, careful consideration must go into a comprehensive proposal to (1) **alleviate the current hardships this law poses to municipalities**; (2) **delay the implementation date** of the requirements; (3) provide **greater clarity** on definition of "public agency" and "if available"; (4) **extend the deadline** for actual posting on the website to 14 days after minutes have been approved; (5) **clarify retention time** on web sites; and, (6) **provide protection for municipal officials** if, due to technical difficulties, certain items are not able to be posted within the timeframe allowed.

In response to concerns voiced by CCM-members, CCM conducted a quick survey in October 2008 to which 62 responses were received - 10 municipalities were already doing what the law required and 25 indicated they had the capability to comply but not necessarily by the October 1, 2008 deadline.

Listed below are the municipalities that (1) do not have a website; (2) have taken down their websites due the impact of this new law; and, (3) currently have active websites. Please note that the information provided on each website varies greatly from municipality to municipality.

➤ The following municipalities **do not currently have websites**:

Bozrah, Killingworth, Scotland, and Warren

- The following municipal websites are currently not on line due to the impact of PA 08-3 of the June Special Session:

Bethany; Bethlehem; Burlington; Colebrook; Griswold; Harwinton; Lisbon; Litchfield; Lyme; Middlefield; New Hartford; Voluntown

- The following municipalities currently have active websites with varying degrees of information provided on them:

<u>Andover</u>	<u>East Lyme</u>	<u>Newington</u>	<u>Somers</u>
<u>Ansonia</u>	<u>East Windsor</u>	<u>Newtown</u>	<u>South Windsor</u>
<u>Ashford</u>	<u>Eastford</u>	<u>New Britain</u>	<u>Southbury</u>
<u>Avon</u>	<u>Easton</u>	<u>New Canaan</u>	<u>Southington</u>
<u>Barkhamsted</u>	<u>Ellington</u>	<u>New Fairfield</u>	<u>Sprague</u>
<u>Beacon Falls</u>	<u>Enfield</u>	<u>New Haven</u>	<u>Stafford</u>
<u>Berlin</u>	<u>Essex</u>	<u>New London</u>	<u>Stamford</u>
<u>Bethel</u>	<u>Fairfield</u>	<u>New Milford</u>	<u>Sterling</u>
<u>Bloomfield</u>	<u>Farmington</u>	<u>Norfolk</u>	<u>Stonington</u>
<u>Bolton</u>	<u>Franklin</u>	<u>North Branford</u>	<u>Stratford</u>
<u>Branford</u>	<u>Glastonbury</u>	<u>North Canaan</u>	<u>Suffield</u>
<u>Bridgeport</u>	<u>Goshen</u>	<u>North Haven</u>	<u>Thomaston</u>
<u>Bridgewater</u>	<u>Granby</u>	<u>North Stonington</u>	<u>Thompson</u>
<u>Bristol</u>	<u>Greenwich</u>	<u>Norwalk</u>	<u>Tolland</u>
<u>Brookfield</u>	<u>Groton</u>	<u>Norwich</u>	<u>Torrington</u>
<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Guilford</u>	<u>Old Lyme</u>	<u>Trumbull</u>
<u>Canaan</u>	<u>Haddam</u>	<u>Old Saybrook</u>	<u>Union</u>
<u>Canterbury</u>	<u>Hamden</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Vernon</u>
<u>Canton</u>	<u>Hampton</u>	<u>Oxford</u>	<u>Wallingford</u>
<u>Chaplin</u>	<u>Hartford</u>	<u>Plainfield</u>	<u>Washington</u>
<u>Cheshire</u>	<u>Hartland</u>	<u>Plainville</u>	<u>Waterbury</u>
<u>Chester</u>	<u>Hebron</u>	<u>Plymouth</u>	<u>Waterford</u>
<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Kent</u>	<u>Pomfret</u>	<u>Watertown</u>
<u>Colchester</u>	<u>Killingly</u>	<u>Portland</u>	<u>West Hartford</u>
<u>Columbia</u>	<u>Lebanon</u>	<u>Preston</u>	<u>West Haven</u>
<u>Cornwall</u>	<u>Ledyard</u>	<u>Prospect</u>	<u>Westbrook</u>
<u>Coventry</u>	<u>Madison</u>	<u>Putnam</u>	<u>Weston</u>
<u>Cromwell</u>	<u>Manchester</u>	<u>Redding</u>	<u>Westport</u>
<u>Danbury</u>	<u>Mansfield</u>	<u>Ridgefield</u>	<u>Wethersfield</u>
<u>Darien</u>	<u>Marlborough</u>	<u>Rocky Hill</u>	<u>Willington</u>
<u>Deep River</u>	<u>Meriden</u>	<u>Roxbury</u>	<u>Wilton</u>
<u>Derby</u>	<u>Middlebury</u>	<u>Salem</u>	<u>Winchester</u>
<u>Durham</u>	<u>Middletown</u>	<u>Salisbury</u>	<u>Windham</u>
<u>East Granby</u>	<u>Milford</u>	<u>Seymour</u>	<u>Windsor</u>
<u>East Haddam</u>	<u>Monroe</u>	<u>Sharon</u>	<u>Windsor Locks</u>
<u>East Hampton</u>	<u>Montville</u>	<u>Shelton</u>	<u>Wolcott</u>
<u>East Hartford</u>	<u>Morris</u>	<u>Sherman</u>	<u>Woodbridge</u>
<u>East Haven</u>	<u>Naugatuck</u>	<u>Simsbury</u>	<u>Woodbury</u>
			<u>Woodstock</u>

CCM urges that, *unless a complete repeal of Public Act 08-3 of the June Special Session can be accomplished*, at the very least **(1) a moratorium be enacted until July 1, 2010** and **(2) the Freedom of Information Commission, in conjunction with the Department of Information technology be required to provide technical and administrative outreach** to municipalities to help them in meeting the requirements of this public act.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of  
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