

**Town of Chester**  
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**BILLS:** HB 5538

**TITLE:** ACTS CONCERNING STORAGE OF AND DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OF EVICTED TENANTS.

**POSITION:** Support

The mandated requirement that municipalities store the personal effects of evicted tenants places an undue burden on municipal public works staff as well as the taxpaying community. Small towns such as Chester have very limited resources with which to work. The requirement to store the effects of evicted tenants has caused our community hardship in several ways:

- We have been notified of pending evictions and scheduled appropriately, only to have the eviction postponed. With only 3 town crew employees this has created scheduling difficulties.
- Chester has very limited storage space. There is the potential for unsafe working conditions to develop as a result of storing belongings in town facilities or creates an undue financial burden on the town if rental storage is needed.
- Unsafe working conditions have presented themselves as town employees have arrived at an eviction site to find very unsanitary conditions that must be accounted for and handled properly.

The cost of such evictions should be considered part of the risk of doing business when an individual or organization engages in rental property management. To expect that such services should be provided at taxpayer expense is unwarranted.

Therefore I support the passage of HB 5538.

Thomas E. Marsh  
First Selectman, Chester