

# Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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## **2009 Legislative Committee**

Written Testimony  
Monday, March 2, 2009  
Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

### **Governor's Bill 6388 AN ACT PROVIDING MANDATE RELIEF TO MUNICIPALITIES**

The Connecticut Town Clerks Association would like to thank you for raising this legislation. This is a most critical time for our towns and cities in Connecticut. Although the bill has good intentions, the bill, as presented and without further editing, has room for misinterpretation.

We suggest the following sections be amended:

Section2(2): While we feel this section was created to provide relief for our cities and towns, we're not sure it actually says this. If the bill is intended to provide relief, then the word 'after' should be changed to 'before'. This change will give towns temporary relief to post minutes to the web site from 7 days to 30 days and demands that by January 1, 2010 minutes shall be posted in 7 days. Also, the last line regarding retention time which says "Such minutes shall be available on such web site for a period of not less than one year from the date of the meeting to which the minutes refer," should be moved to section 1. This change will clearly state the retention time for all minutes, not just minutes being posted due to this temporary relief, shall be available for not less than one year.

We fully support the provisions of the Governor's bill that allow for the use of electronic means to post important legal notices to the towns web site in lieu of advertising in a local paper. However, some sections of the current law may have been missed. We want to make sure Section 49 can be interpreted to include all sections of the law, including ones not mentioned in this bill. A few examples of missed sections are: Sec 7-147b(e) and Sec 7-147e regarding Historic District Commission public hearings, Sec 7-394 regarding Annual Audits, and Sec 26-240 regarding Shellfish Commission public hearings.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce P. Mascena, Glastonbury Town Clerk  
Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee