

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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2010 Legislative Committee

Written Testimony
Monday, March 15, 2010
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Raised Senate Bill 435 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL FEES.

Good morning Senator Daily, Representative Staples and the distinguished members of the Finance Committee, my name is Essie Labrot, and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA). I am a member of the legislative committee for the Association and the Town Clerk of West Hartford. I am here today to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 435 "AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL FEES.

Our Association sincerely appreciates this committee raising **Senate Bill 435** for consideration. Although we recognize other possible municipal fees that could be reviewed at this time, this bill focuses on fees collected by town clerks. These fees include increases to vital records, notary public filings, document filings including maps and trade names, dog licenses, liquor permits as well as changes to the way town clerks are reimbursed for conferences and mileage.

I direct your attention to the chart attached to our testimony identifying each statute affected by these changes, the current fee and the proposed fee based on recommendation from our membership and the cost of living index. You will notice most fees listed have not been increased in over 20 years with one fee not increased for over 50 years. Perhaps some interesting statistics will help you visualize our lives the last time some of these fees were increased:

In 1967, the last time a liquor permit filing increased to \$2: gas was 33 cents/gal; minimum wage was \$1.40/hr.

In 1971, the last time map filing fees increased to \$10: gas was 40 cents/gal; a postage stamp was 8 cents.

In 1982, the last time dog license fees increased: a stamp was 20 cents and minimum wage was \$3.32/hr.

In our Towns and offices, we have been asked to cut our budgets every year and (in a town like West Hartford, where we distribute over 3,000 dog licenses, 10,000 land recordings and thousands of other transactions per year) we need to maintain staffing levels to provide these required services for our residents. These increases would help provide some relief to our budgets in our towns as we constantly look to be more efficient while keeping a high level of customer service.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I would be pleased to take any questions that you may have at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Essie Labrot, West Hartford Town Clerk
Member, CTCA Legislative Committee

**Connecticut Town Clerks Association
Summary of Proposed Fee Increases
2010 Legislative Session**

Rev. 1/15/2010

<u>Statute #</u>	<u>Fee Description</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>Yr Last Increased</u>	<u>Cost of Living Adj to 2009*</u>	<u>Comments</u>
\$9-6.	Conference Reimbursement	\$35.00	Daily salary plus cost of registration	1979	\$103.17	
\$9-6.	Mileage Reimbursement	Minimum Rate of \$.020 per Mile or Greater Rate as Determined by Municipality	IRS Standard Mileage Rate	1983	\$0.43	2010 IRS Standard Mileage Rate = \$0.50
\$22-338.	Dog License Late Fee	\$1.00/mo	\$2.00/mo	1982	\$2.22	Increase to stay in the town, not sent to Dept of Ag. \$22-347.
\$22-339	Dog License - Change of Ownership	\$1.00/mo	\$5.00/mo	1982	\$2.22	
\$22-342	Kennel License Late Fee	\$1.00/dog	\$2.00/dog	1977	\$3.53	Increase to stay in the town, not sent to Dept of Ag. \$22-347.
\$22-347.	Replacement Dog Tag	\$0.50	\$5.00	1982	\$1.11	
\$22-352.	Dog License - Chg of Residence	\$0.50	\$5.00	1963	\$3.50	
\$30-53.	Liquor Permit Filing	\$2.00	\$15.00	1967	\$12.81	
\$7-34a.	Misc. Document Filing	\$5.00	\$20.00	1982	\$11.09	
\$7-34a.	Map Filing & Indexing	\$10.00	\$20.00	1971	\$52.84	
\$7-34a.	Notary Public - Oath & Commission Filing	\$10.00	\$20.00	1981	\$23.54	
\$7-34a.	Notary Public - Character Certification	\$2.00	\$5.00	1981	\$4.71	
\$3-95.	Notarization	\$5.00	\$10.00	2000	\$6.21	
\$3-95.	Notary Public - Mileage Reimbursement	\$0.35	IRS Standard Mileage Rate	2000	\$0.43	2010 IRS Standard Mileage Rate = \$0.50
\$7-73.	Marriage License Fee	\$10.00	\$20.00	1989	\$17.26	Town Portion Only
\$7-73.	Burial or Burial Transit					
\$7-73.	Removal/Disinterment Permit	\$3.00	\$5.00	1989	\$5.18	
\$19a-323.	Cremation Permit Fee	\$3.00	\$5.00	1991	\$4.71	
\$19a-323.	Cremation Written Notice Fee	\$1.00	\$2.00	1959	\$7.35	

*Per Cost of Living web-site <http://www.aier.org/research/worksheets-and-tools/cost-of-living-calculator>