



CONNECTICUT BOWLING PROPRIETORS

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Committee on General Law 2/16/10

My name is Bill DeDominicis. I would like to speak in favor of Raised Bill # 128. In addition to being a bowling center owner I am here on behalf of the Connecticut Bowling Proprietors Association.

I am going to address the portion of the bill that pertains to the Bowling Alley permit, which carries a license fee of \$2,250. There are a total of forty-four bowling centers in the state. Thirty-six of them have full liquor licenses. All thirty-one of the Ten Pin Centers have a full license, as well as five of the Duckpin centers. I can't speak to how many of the remaining eight Duck Pin centers, but if they do it is for beer and wine only.

Ever since the early seventies, when the bowling center permit became available, it was the most expensive license along with coliseums. That was the case until the casino permit was created. For some reason, unknown to me, we were put in the same category as coliseums. If we had the alcohol sales of a coliseum for just one week there would not be a need for this bill.

We do not have the revenues that nightclubs, coliseums, cafes and some clubs have. In most cases our lounges simply service the bowlers. Our regulations for the most part follow a restaurant permit and a café permit except for minor items and fewer serving hours.

I don't believe I can tell you anything new about the economy but I can tell you that the bowling industry has not been immune to it. Along with the economy and the general reduction of alcohol sales, the bowling industry took a big hit when the smoking ban was enacted. We saw a reduction in both league revenues and lounge revenues. Along with many smoking members dropping out we then had to compete with private clubs. Many clubs have bowling lanes and they are exempt from the smoking regulations. The clubs pay \$300 for their permit. It is very hard to compete against a non-profit group that has club prices on both bowling and alcohol and the patrons are allowed to smoke.

I can't see any logic to the permit fees. A golf course is \$1,000, a brew pub is \$300, a café is \$2,000 a restaurant is \$1,450 and then a bowling center permit comes in higher than all of them at \$2,250.

I won't take up anymore of your time. I think I have explained the unfairness here. By approving this bill, it will be the first step toward correcting a thirty five year old mistake.

The bowling industry can use and will appreciate the help in correcting this.

Thank you for your time and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.