

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

James M. Thomas  
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion  
Chief of Staff

February 8, 2011

Rep. Joseph J. Taborsak, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Paul R. Doyle, Co-Chairman  
General Law Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**HB 5238 AN ACT CONCERNING LIQUOR PERMIT RENEWALS AND FIRE CODE INSPECTIONS**

***The Department of Public Safety opposes this bill.***

This bill would allow a renewal applicant to maintain his license for a minimum of twenty days after the expiration date if the applicant has requested a municipal fire code inspection and such inspection has not yet been completed prior to the expiration date for such license. Passage of the bill would allow an applicant to wait until the day before expiration of the license to request inspection and then maintain his license until inspected. The system in place requires a local fire marshal to conduct an inspection and recommend approval or denial of a liquor permit. The owner of the building is made aware of any violations and must develop a plan of corrections for addressing those violations. Unless the violations are life threatening, the actual corrections do not have to be completed before a recommendation is given.

The owner knows that the liquor permit must be renewed in a year. It is up to the owner to contact the fire marshal and make the inspection prior to the renewal. If the owner is not organized enough to make the request in a timely manner, changing the requirements will not alleviate the problem.

This change in the requirements will give a reason for poor management to have an excuse to manipulate the system. It will lead to an administrative nightmare for the staff processing liquor permit renewals. It also has the probability of adding a burden to the local fire marshals since they will now be contacted in order to verify that an inspection was not made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Thomas".  
James M. Thomas  
COMMISSIONER