



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE CLARK J. CHAPIN
SIXTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 6410 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISION OF MUNICIPAL CHARTERS

Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing
March 4, 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 6410, An Act Concerning the Revision of Municipal Charters. This bill is intended to provide municipalities with an option to engage in a limited charter revision process. By having such an option, the appointing authority would be able to set a limited agenda of what may be considered by the charter revision commission.

CGS 7-190 states that 'The commission may also consider other items for inclusion in the proposed charter, other changes to the charter or home rule ordinance and such other items as it deems desirable or necessary.' Often times, municipalities are reluctant to make necessary changes to their charters since everything is subject to scrutiny once a charter is opened up under existing law. Those who have served on a charter revision commission know that public comment and hearings along with deliberations can be both time-consuming and costly. By providing an option to allow for limited items to be considered, municipalities may be more likely to update their charters in a timely and cost-effective manner.

It is important to note that this bill does not change the process for charter revision commenced by petition (CGS 7-189) which may include a list of general or specific recommendations for consideration. It simply provides the appointing authority with the option of limiting consideration to those general or specific recommendations and other issues the appointing authority may choose to direct the charter revision commission to take up.

Thank you for giving consideration to favorable passage of HB 6410. As always, I am happy to provide additional information or answer any questions.