



CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Promoting Environmental Health in Connecticut Since 1954

March 5, 2012

Raised Bill 190: An Act Concerning The Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Regarding Bed Bug Infestation.

Honorable Members of the Housing Committee:

The Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA) is a membership organization composed of a variety of environmental and public health professionals, but primarily consisting of local health department sanitarians.

CEHA supports Raised Bill 190.

Over the past few years, local health departments have witnessed a significant increase in bed bug complaints, especially in the larger cities. The complaints and how to handle them have become more complex and CEHA believes this bill will clarify the roles and responsibilities of the land lord and the tenant in addressing such problems. It has been CEHA's experience that insect and other pest infestations are not limited to bed bugs. We would suggest that the bill be modified to include any and all pest or vermin infestations

In this economy, there is an increased use of rental furniture and purchase of used furniture. This coupled with the enormous amount of overseas travel has led to a significant and rapid rise of the bed bug population in private homes, rental units and hotels and motels. This bill is a great tool to help local health department officials, tenants, and land lords fully understand who is responsible for dealing with an infestation and the cost of remediation. It eliminates "grey" areas and clarifies the responsibilities of all parties.

For the above mentioned reasons, we support the passage of this bill. We encourage you to consider the suggestion to modify the language of this bill to include other nuisance infestations such as cockroaches, fleas, and rodents.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion.

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