

CCM 2012 Testimony

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5378 *"An Act Concerning the Maximum Surcharge for Enhanced 9-1-1 Service"*

This bill would allow the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to set the appropriate maximum monthly fee to fund the Enhanced 9-1-1 (E-911) program.

CCM supports HB 5378 as a reasonable approach to increasing the current statutory surcharge cap. Increasing the surcharge is essential towards offsetting the administrative costs of maintaining the current E-911 system. Furthermore, there are many limitations with the current E-911 system, including lack of replacement parts as well as inability to address new forms of communication. Therefore, HB 5378 would also be necessary in order to acquire the much-needed next generation 9-1-1 software for this program.

CCM has consistently advocated for an increase from the current surcharge amount of .50 cents to .75 cents as a modest means of improving the delivery of public safety to our residents. Simply put, an increase is long overdue and HB 5378 would help facilitate such relief.

CCM urges the committee to **favorably report HB 5378.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Analyst of CCM
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