



CCM 2013 Testimony

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS 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.

CCM *supports* Raised Bill 431 "*An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State, Proclamations of a Civil Preparedness Emergency and Notice of Legislative Sessions*"

Among other things, this bill would allow for modification to elections schedules in the event that an emergency or major disaster is declared by either the Governor of Connecticut or the President of the United States.

As Connecticut reflects on the last two years of "hundred-year" storms, much is being examined to ensure proper processes are in place in the event another should ever occur. Both Hurricane Sandy of 2012 and the October snowstorm of 2011 occurred just prior to Election Day in Connecticut. As we all are painfully aware our state was in a precarious situation both times and for several weeks - electricity was out; government offices and schools were closed; some roads were impassible; residents were left homeless (temporarily or permanently); and more.

It is for these reasons that it is important, both to the integrity of our election system and the assurance that all voters have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote, that Connecticut put in place a mechanism to adjust the election cycle if such an emergency should occur again in the future.



If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, State Relations Manager of CCM via email kwash-weaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 710-9525.