

Testimony of William Giannos
General Law Committee Public Hearing
February 7, 2013

Proposed H.B. HB 5610 and HB 6096:

An Act Concerning the Creation and the Issuance of Temporary Ice Cream Vendor Permits

Dear Members of the General Law Committee:

Presently all soft serve ice cream trucks have to be inspected by the State Department of Consumer Protections to be able to vend. Ice cream trucks that sell packaged ice cream (ie. Good Humor) only have to go to the local Health Department to be inspected. We have come to realize that state permit should cover us anywhere in the state. I have spoken to people from the Department of Consumer Protection and they agree with the issue.

Years ago I was told the farmers had the same problem. Farmers wanted to sell their produce at road side stands, every town they wanted to go to, they would have to get separate permits. Eventually laws were changed and now farmers only have to be inspected by the state and are able to sell anywhere in the state.

This past summer Naugatuck High School had booked a party for two of our trucks to go and hand out 1,200 ice cream cones. During the trip back from the event the trucks were stopped by the Naugatuck Health Department and were given a summons that they were operating without a local health permit. I appealed the decision and nothing has come of it. All ice cream manufacturing plants in CT example; HP Hood in Suffield, CT is licensed by the State Department of Consumer Protection. If Naugatuck High School had called HP Hood to come down and deliver 1,200 cones they would not need a permit. Our manufacturing plant is in our truck. The only difference is we make the ice cream on the premises not in a factory.

My business besides selling ice cream on the neighborhood streets is doing parties all over CT. Sometimes we get calls for a party the same day or the next day. If we were to get local permits there wouldn't be enough time for certain events. Our State issued permit should cover us throughout the entire state. One local health inspector told the Department of Consumer Protection that if soft serve ice cream trucks were to sell water or soda they would have to get a permit from the local Health Department. This is a way for local health departments to get back at the state Department of Consumer Protection. This issue is something that I would like to propose a change to. All soft serve ice cream trucks licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection should not have to locally get health permits when the state has already given a license.

Best Regards

William Giannos