



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
April 1, 2013

House Bill 6689, An Act Concerning Bail Bonds

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding **House Bill 6689, An Act Concerning Bail Bonds**. The Branch is opposed to section 3 of the bill.

Section 3(a)(1) of the bill would allow bondsmen to seek a stay of execution on the bond forfeiture beyond the statutory six-month grace period, for good cause shown. If adopted, the Branch anticipates a significant increase in the number of motions filed for extensions of time, since there will be little for a bondsman to lose; if granted, it would postpone any forfeiture of money. The effect on the Branch is two-fold: not only will increased filings take court and judge time away from other pending criminal cases, but should these motions be granted, all notices must be provided manually because our computer system is not capable of indicating such stays.

The Judicial Branch is also opposed to section 3(a)(4) which would seemingly allow a defendant to voluntarily return to court - even years after they were due in court - with the result being a termination of the bond and the surety released. As members of the Committee may be aware, the point of bond is to ensure that an arrested person shows up for his or her court date. The court's authority is severely diminished if a person can pick and choose when to show up in court without consequence.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to this bill.