

NOT
TEST

Testimony on SB 965
AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION STATUTES
Gisela Harma, CCMC, Stonington Tax Collector
Co-chairman, CTx Legislative Committee

The Connecticut Tax Collectors' Association and its members strongly support Raised Bill No. 965 which updates those statutes that tax collectors use on a daily basis.

Municipal tax collectors are responsible for collecting up to 95% of a municipality's annual revenue. We take this responsibility very seriously and strive to achieve a high level of professionalism. Our difficult jobs are made somewhat easier by our strict reliance on statutes which we are sworn to uphold and administer equally to all taxpayers.

Our statutes are outdated and in some cases can be misinterpreted because they are not specific enough. For example Sec. 12-135 still allows the fiduciary of the estate of a deceased collector to assume the collector's duties. Sec. 12-151 still refers to carbon paper and duplicate receipt books. Sec. 12-129 needed to be reworded to clarify that overpayments not requested by the taxpayer within the statutory 3 year period remains the property of the municipality. As currently worded it is unclear whether or not this money is escheated or kept by the town.

Therefore, two years ago the Legislative Committee formed a subcommittee to review our statutes and try to update and clarify those areas that were in need of being brought into the 21st century. After 18 months of committee meetings and many drafts of the proposed changes we are very excited to have them presented to you as Raised Bill No. 965.

We appreciate all the support not only from the Association and tax collectors in general but also from legislators to whom we have spoken. We sincerely hope that you will vote to approve this legislation. Passage of this bill will assist us in doing our job in a more effective and efficient manner throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration.