



State of Connecticut

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

H.B 5728- AN ACT AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE HIGHWAYS.

**Public Safety Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
February 7, 2013**

I would like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Joan Hartley and Representative Stephen Dargan, the Honorable Vice Chairs Senator Andres Ayala and Representative Joe Verrengia, the Ranking Members Senator Anthony Guglielmo and Representative Jan Giegler, and the entire membership of the Public Safety Committee for their time this afternoon addressing this issue.

I am sorry I cannot be with you today to personally communicate my support for this bill, but thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

This bill will amend title 13b of the general statutes to require the Department of Transportation to issue "special event" permits to requesting fire departments who would like to conduct charitable "fill the boot" drive on state roads. Under existing policies, the Department of Transportation defines what is considered a special event, and a "fill the boot" drive does not qualify for the permit. This proposal seeks to correct that by granting these events eligible for the permit. These fundraising drives are crucial fundraising tools for the fire departments in my communities. Route 34, running through the towns of Derby, Orange, and Woodbridge provides a steady stream of traffic and many willing individuals who are eager to support our volunteer departments. .

By amending these statutes, we will make it easier for these hardworking fire departments to raise much needed funds in today's tough economic climate. The funds raised will benefit the community at large.

I respectfully request your thoughtful review and consideration of this legislative proposal and that you support its passage out of your committee. Please contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Themis Klarides
Deputy House Republican Leader

TK/AL