CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CCM 2013 Testimony

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 20, 2013

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 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM *opposes* House Bill 5384 *An Act Concerning The Issuance of Temporary Motor Vehicle Registrations by Automobile Dealers to Buyers with Certain Local Enforcement Issues.*

HB 5384 would to allow automobile dealers to issue a two-week temporary motor vehicle registration to any buyer with outstanding local enforcement issues, **including unpaid local property taxes**. CCM strongly opposes this bill as it would simply make it more difficult to collect delinquent taxes.

The ability to withhold the registration of a new motor vehicle is a strong tool that municipalities rely on to ensure that any outstanding taxes are promptly paid before a new vehicle can be registered. CCM believes that any law that would take away an effective means to ensure the enforcement of local tax laws would be a disservice to our towns and cities. Residents that owe delinquent taxes should not be rewarded by being able to avoid the law or the payment of back taxes when they purchase a new motor vehicle. This bill would further delay and increase the difficulty in collecting delinquent taxes. When a person fails to pay their taxes in a timely manner it simply shifts the burden onto those taxpayers who have met their obligations with timely payment of their taxes.

CCM urges the members of the Transportation Committee to **reject HB 5384**.

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If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr., Senior Legislative Associate for CCM via email rcollins@ccm-ct.org or via phone (860) 707-6446.