

CCM 2013 Testimony

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 1, 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.

S.B. 351, "An Act Concerning A Study of the Local Property Tax Assessment Process"

CCM has particular concern about a proposed required area of study for the task force: requiring the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) to "explain the basis for each decision". This would have a direct impact on the appeal from the BAA to Superior Court. It would encourage litigation, forcing towns and cities to spend more time defending themselves in Court.

CCM urges the Committee to expand the scope of the study to examine Connecticut's property tax system and its impact on residential and business property taxpayers. It seems the focus on the fairness of assessments has as much to do with how overburdened property taxpayers may be, as anything. Since they may be related, both should be studied.

If there is to be a study, CCM urges the Committee to ensure that there is representation from the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers (CAAO), the entity that has the technical expertise, and CCM, the entity that is responsible for the overall health and welfare of towns and cities.

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If you have any questions, please contact Ron Thomas at rthomas@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3000.