



# CCM 2014 Testimony

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## ***JUDICIARY COMMITTEE***

March 24, 2014

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.

### **HB 5538, "An Act Concerning Juice Bars"**

The bill would enhance the notice and enforcement provisions for select permittees operating juice bars or similar establishments. A "juice bar" is an area that serves nonalcoholic beverages to minors. In addition, juice bars are usually found within facilities that are otherwise permitted to serve alcohol.

CCM **supports** the proposal as it would provide clarity to the standards and permitting for these sometimes problematic establishments. In particular, HB 5538 would ensure proper notification of the operation of a juice bar to law enforcement, implement protocols regarding the operation of the facility to protect against minors being served alcohol, and enhance the penalty for any permittee that violates these provisions.

As a result of recent increases in violence within some of these establishments throughout the State, HB 5538 would be a reasonable means of enhancing the quality of life that our dedicated public safety officials strive to protect on a day-to-day basis. Law enforcement officials have cited that current practice does not properly account for adequate law enforcement notification of these facilities, and often establish little security or protocols to prevent minors from being served alcohol. These are matters of serious concern to our communities and impact local public safety.

For these reasons, CCM asks the Committee to **favorably report** HB 5538.



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate, at [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 500-7556.