



CCM 2014 Testimony

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 14, 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 5507, "An Act Concerning The Appointment Of Zoning Enforcement Officials, Building Officials And Fire Marshals"

CCM supports HB 5507, however we are unsure of the implications of portions of the bill.

HB 5507 would allow a municipal CEO the ability to appointment Zoning Enforcement Officials, Building Inspectors, and Fire Marshals in light of the simple fact that these are municipal employees. CCM would ask that the bill be amended to allow a relevant department head be included as may be the current practice in larger municipalities. Section 2 that regards the hiring of Building Inspectors is subject to the above comment as well.

Section 2 eliminates the 4-year term for building officials. Presumably this means they would now have open-ended terms. That may be a good thing as a practical matter, a municipalities may forget to do the reappointment in a timely manner at some point in time. That could lead to the discovery that some critical order was issued by a building official whose term had expired. CCM is seeking additional input from town and city officials, and looks forward to working with the Committee on this section.

CCM would like to see Section 3 clarified. Section 3 which would make the CEO the appointing authority for the Fire Marshal "in consultation with the board of fire commissioners." It then deletes the provisions in both subsection (a) and (b) which apply when there is no board of fire commissioners. It would seem to require municipalities to create such a board, which current law CGS 7-301 does not mandate.

CCM would ask the Committee to clarify the questions raised above before favorably reporting HB 5507 with the changes we have proposed.



If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.