



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL L. MOLGANO  
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: (203) 461-8551  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
Michael.Molgano@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## Testimony

In Support of Raised H. B. No. 5349

An Act Concerning the Time in Which Certain Residential Property Owners May  
Appeal an Assessment

Planning and Development Committee

March 7, 2014

Dear Chair Osten, Chair Rojas, Vice-Chair Cassano, Vice-Chair Fox, Ranking Member Fasano, Ranking Member Aman, and Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

Double-digit property tax increases aggrieved many Stamford residents in 2013. The scheduled tax bills accompanying the tax letter sent out by the City in late June presented percentages far beyond the letter's stated 3.4 percent increase on properties assessed in 2012. With a mill rate set 33 percent higher, the numbers raised major outcry demonstrated at a Board of Finance public hearing that followed and no solution was available to address the issue by City officials.

A hands-tying problem ensued when residents were informed they must pay up, incurring 1.5 percent interest each month they were late in making their payments. Section 12-111 of the State Statutes sets the deadline residents can submit a written request for appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals at the twentieth of March. The date had passed, leaving Stamford residents no recourse of action. Adding insult to injury, Board of Finance members themselves questioned the foregone revaluation numbers with no remedy offered to taxpayers other than commissioning an audit.

Raised Bill 5349 affords residents of Connecticut, who are assessed with at least a twenty percent tax increase, an extension to the appeals process by providing an opportunity to submit an application no later than thirty days before the date on which their second installment of their property tax payments are due. Such an amendment to State Statutes will permit residents an alternative when aggrieved from property assessments as was experienced by many in Stamford in 2013.

Present law confines Connecticut taxpayers to a limited window on appealing a major liability they must incur, property taxes; what occurred last year in Stamford left public officials on unchartered ground. Raised Bill 5349 gives residents and public officials recourse to addressing assessment flaws or legitimate adjustments, and I urge the Planning and Development Committee to allow the bill to come to the floors of the House and Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Molgano". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael L. Molgano  
District 144