



# CCM 2015 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

Your source for local government management information [www.ccm-ct.org](http://www.ccm-ct.org)

## ***EDUCATION COMMITTEE***

March 19, 2015

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 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **HB 7022 "An Act Concerning the Authorization of State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Changes to the Statutes Concerning School Building Projects"**

CCM supports **HB 7022** which would, among other things, establish a school building project clearinghouse as well as make changes to the school building construction grant commitment requirements for municipalities.

Section 3 of the bill would establish a school building project clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of school building project designs, plans and specifications. This clearinghouse would provide for a publicly accessible database for the collection of useful guides that local officials and architects can reference when designing new schools. While these would be offered at guides, they could be helpful in illustrating examples of successful school designs.

Section 4 of the bill would allow municipalities the opportunity to submit a grant application before local funding is secured. This would be accomplished by allowing a town that has a referendum bonding approval process, to submit the grant application by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline and allow the municipality to secure those funds by November 15. This would allow towns the ability to have a referendum during their November elections, rather than having a special election. Towns without bonding referendum would still be required to have local funding authorization in place by June 30<sup>th</sup>. While the application would not be processed until the local funding source is secured, CCM supports this proposal as a measure to improve and streamline the school building construction grant process.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report HB 7022**.



If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara, State Relations Manager, CCM at [rlabanara@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rlabanara@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 498-3000.