



# Town of Bolton

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## Written Testimony

From

Joyce M. Stille, Administrative Officer

Town of Bolton

For

Labor & Public Employees Committee

February 2, 2015

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
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### RE: HB-5070 An Act Concerning Timetables For Municipal Binding Arbitration

On behalf of the Town of Bolton, I am respectfully submitting the following written comments in support of HB-5070. This bill would require all municipal employers and municipal employee organizations engaged in mandatory binding arbitration to complete negotiations within one year from the date that binding arbitration was imposed by the state.

Due to various issues, reality is that our negotiations with the unions often result in requesting an extension to the mandatory mediation and arbitration timetables. As a result, we are not able to develop an accurate budget reflecting actual costs. This leaves a gap in our budget that is never easy to fill especially in our small town. In one case, we were close to moving arbitration out an additional fiscal year. This would have been absolutely devastating with the back pay necessitated by the agreement. While we were not faced with this situation, I am well aware of other towns being faced with this situation. As a Resident State Trooper town, we have been impacted by this exact same situation as the State Police contract negotiations have taken multiple years for settlement and ratification. While not directly our payroll costs, the contract costs for our troopers had a significant percentage and financial increase that exacerbated our ability to address within our small, struggling municipal budget.

The proposed HB-5070 would definitely assist us in completing negotiations in a timely fashion and more importantly managing our budgets. We strongly support passage of this proposal.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you wish to discuss this further.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce M. Stille

Administrative Officer