



CCM 2015 Testimony

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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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.

HB 6953, “An Act Allowing the Bifurcation of Municipal Tax Bills”

HB 6953 would, among other things, provide municipalities the option of establishing different mill rates for real property, motor vehicles and other personal property and to allow local boards of education to set separate mill rates for board of education budgets.

CCM supports the concept of HB 6953, as a local option, which highlights the need for a more comprehensive approach toward property tax reform in Connecticut. While the goal of placing greater transparency on the impact of local education budgets is intriguing – **there are concerns regarding the practical application of HB 6953**. Specifically, CCM has questions regarding the potential effects HB 6953 would have on local bonding authority, and whether local governments could initiate such option to bifurcate tax bills. Simply stated, the notion of whether there should be separate taxing authorities should be introduced and approved by local legislative bodies (boards of selectmen in municipalities with town meeting format), and not by local boards of education.

To this end, CCM is interested in working with the Committee to further vet this proposal and its impact on municipal taxing structures and their regions.

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager for CCM, at rlabanara@ccm-ct.org or at (203) 710-0491.