

SENATOR PAUL R. DOYLE

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State of Connecticut

SENATE
Ninth District

MAJORITY WHIP

Chair
General Law Committee

Vice Chair
Housing Committee
Judiciary Committee

Member
Regulations Review Committee

February 19, 2015

Re: Proposed Senate Bill 18 - An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Hoarding

Testimony for the Public Safety And Security Committee on 2/19/2015

I first want to thank the Public Safety And Security Committee - especially Chairmen Dargan and Larson and Ranking Members Zupkus and Guglielmo - for voting to give my Proposed Senate Bill 18 a public hearing.

I proposed this bill as a result of my meeting with a statewide working group that has been meeting in Newington for the past 7 months or so on the serious public safety issue of Hoarding. You will hear from six members of this working group this evening that will provide you specific reasons and evidence of the significance of the issue of hoarding in Connecticut and the need for a legislative task force to take a comprehensive look and study of this serious public safety issue.

As a private sector attorney, for many years I have been exposed to this serious issue and you would be surprised to learn how widespread a problem it is in Connecticut and all over the country.

After you hear the testimony from the experts after me, I would ask you to vote to draft and later JF Proposed Senate Bill 18 so we can move this issue forward in the legislative process.

I attach to my testimony a list of officials that the working group suggests should be appointed to the task force. As always, we leave the final decisions up to your committee.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration on this important bill.


Paul R. Doyle
State Senator

Proposed List of Legislative Task Force Members:

LEGAL RIGHTS

1. Legal Services Attorney

PUBLIC HEALTH

2. HEALTH OPTIONS
 - a. Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, or his/her designee
 - b. President of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association, or his/her designee

PUBLIC SAFETY

3. Commissioner of Public Safety
4. Representative from the Connecticut Police Chief's Association
5. Representative from the Connecticut Fire Chief's Association

ANIMAL CONTROL

6. Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, or his/her designee

STATE'S ATTORNEY

7. Chief State's Attorney, or his/her designee

ENFORCEMENT- FIRE/HOUSING/BUILDING

8. FIRE MARSHAL OPTIONS
 - a. State Fire Marshal, or his/her designee
 - b. President of the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association, or his/her designee
9. HOUSING OPTIONS
 - a. President of the Connecticut Housing Code Official's Association, or his/her designee
 - b. Representative from the Connecticut Property Owner's Association
10. BUILDING/ZONING OFFICIALS OPTIONS
 - a. President of the Connecticut Building Official's Association, or his/her designee
 - b. President of Connecticut Zoning Official's Association or his/her designee

SOCIAL SERVICES/MENTAL HEALTH/AGING

11. Representative from the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
12. President of Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services (C.L.A.S.S.), or his/her designee
13. AGING/ELDERLY OPTIONS
 - a. Representative from the Connecticut Department of Social Services, Protective Services for the Elderly
 - b. Representative from Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging

CHILD WELFARE

14. Representative from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families

MUNICIPAL

15. Representative from the Connecticut Council of Municipalities