

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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TESTIMONY **March 16, 2015** **Judiciary Committee**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and the distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. The CT Town Clerks Association would like to offer the following comments in opposition of Raised Bill No. 1086, “An Act Concerning Persons Who are Permitted to Solemnize Marriages in this State”.

This bill makes the Registrar of Vital Statistics responsible for identifying and approving the proof of authority of the officiator. Currently, we don’t identify, approve or verify any officiators. It would seem unwieldy to expect “proof of such authority” from all out of state “officiators” as we would never know if the proof was legitimate or not. The bill further requires an “application” to be created by the “Registrar”. As all vital records come under the purview of the Public Health Department, we would expect that any changes or additions to Vital Records process be directed by this agency rather than the individual Town Clerk of each town for sake of consistency.

We respectfully suggest that by eliminating the words in (a)3: “as long as they continue in the work of the ministry” would produce the same result in allowing other types of officiators to perform marriages. We believe that the Public Health Committee has a Raised Bill No. 991 to this effect which our Association plans on supporting.

Thank you.

Essie S. Labrot, Town Clerk, West Hartford
Chair, Legislative and Elections, CT Town Clerks Association