



Town of Bolton

222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD • BOLTON, CT 06043

Written Testimony

From

Joyce M. Stille, Administrative Officer

Town of Bolton

For

Labor & Public Employees Committee

February 2, 2015

RE: HB-5265 AAC Minimum Longevity Requirements for Unemployment Benefits

On behalf of the Town of Bolton, I am respectfully submitting the following written comments in support of HB-5265. This bill is intended to reform certain portions of the state's unemployment compensation system.

The current system has a threshold of \$600.00 which has not been revised since 1982. With the increase in minimum wage, the \$600.00 threshold is no longer viable. Under HB-5265, an employee must be employed for 30 days before they become eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. We support the bill since it is a step towards addressing the problems that currently exist. As a small town, unemployment compensation benefits can be difficult to plan for yet very burdensome on an already strained municipal budget. While we fully support the necessity of benefits for employees, there are limits. Some examples from us would include our having to pay benefits for an election worker and a student summer park worker. These positions have given timeframes for employment, yet qualified for benefits. While the bill would not address summer staff, it would address the election worker scenario.

We support HB-5265 but urge lawmakers to consider additional reform measures to address concerns with unemployment compensation benefits and provide some additional relief to municipalities.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce M. Stille

Administrative Officer