



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FRANCE
FORTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

17 GARDEN DRIVE
GALES FERRY, CT 06335

HOME: (860) 464-9229
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1423
Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE

February 4, 2015 * 1:00pm * 2B

Testimony on Proposed HB 5087 An Act Streamlining The Municipal Charter Revision Process For Certain Technical Changes.

Dear Chairmen Osten and Miller, Ranking Members Linares and Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is Mike France and I am providing written testimony regarding the streamlining of the Municipal Charter revision process for minor administrative and technical changes. Under current state statute, the charter revision process is lengthy and does not allow for the Charter to be revised unless the entire document is opened to scrutiny and potential update. In addition, the cost of the Charter revision is significant in both time and money, including the requirement for at least two (2) public hearings with the associated cost of posting the meeting announcement in the newspaper.

Prior to being elected as a State Representative, I served for three (3) years as a Town Councilor in Ledyard, as well as the Chair of the Finance Committee. During that tenure, there were several issues that arose concerning language within the Town Charter that should be revised but, because they were relatively minor, no changes were made due to the cost of the revision process.

For minor and technical changes, the Board of Selectmen, Town Council or other governing authority should have the opportunity to revise the Charter in a very narrow way without causing a total review. This would allow the maintenance of Town Charters in a more comprehensive way and not cause towns to spend their limited resources on a full review when only a very small portion of the Charter is being considered.

Regards,

Mike France State Representative, 42nd Assembly District
Ledyard, Preston, Montville