



BILL FINCH
Mayor

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March 4, 2015
Committee on Public Health
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: H.B. 6280 An Act Concerning Fees for Genealogy Searches.

Thank you Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm here to support an act concerning fees for genealogy searches.

Genealogy searches allow us to learn more about ourselves, our family, and our personal ancestry. Through searches into vital records, we can uncover valuable documents such as birth, death, and immigration records. Professional genealogist searches typically cost eighty to one-hundred twenty-five dollars per hour. Many individuals and families cannot afford this.

The city of Bridgeport regularly receives requests for genealogy searches of its records—up to ten per month. The staff often spends numerous hours searching for the requested document. However, municipalities are currently not allowed to charge a fee for a service that takes up to seven hours for each request.

Allowing cities to charge a fee would local health departments to deliver a public service at a fraction of the typical cost.

I respectfully ask the committee to pass this bill. It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Indra Sen
City of Bridgeport