

# Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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Testimony of  
CTCA Legislative Committee  
Planning and Development  
Date: February 19, 2016

### **Raised Bill No 5178, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF DOGS.**

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Good morning Senator Osten and Representative Miller and the members of the Planning and Development Committee, my name is Debra Denette, I am the Town Clerk in East Haddam and the Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Town Clerk's Association. I am here today to address the Proposed Bill No 5178. The Clerk's Association believes that if we are going to amend the statute, we should take a broader look at what we are trying to address:

The intent of the bill may be to alleviate burdens upon municipalities by licensing dogs on three-year intervals, however, this is not practical. The annual licensing process assures current rabies vaccines are up to date. As all dogs will not have their rabies vaccines in June every three years, such vaccines are likely to lapse. Additionally, the current proposed language would make it harder for the Town Clerk to maintain their dogs list as accurate and up to date as possible, a necessity for our Animal Control Officers.

The Clerks Association would like the legislature to recognize that notwithstanding the administrative burden placed upon the Clerks each June, our concern is that our costs that have been steadily increasing over the past several years, yet the fee to license a dog has remained the same, (since 2003). Additionally, the post office now tacks on an additional .20 cent surcharge because of the "s" hook when sending a dog license through the mail. While the proposal submitted does not seek additional revenue, it merely spreads it over a longer time period, the Clerks would be supportive of a modest increase (from \$8.00 to \$10.00 for an altered dog and from \$19.00 to \$20 for an unaltered dog) on an annual basis with the additional licensing revenue remaining with the municipality to offset increased processing costs. This would readily address the postage burden without creating confusion to the general public.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra H. Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk  
Chair CTCA Legislative Committee