



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Planning and Development Committee
Public Testimony
Friday, February 19, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5178 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF DOGS

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Osten, Representative Miller; Vice Chairs Senator Cassano, Representative D'Agostino; Ranking Members Senator Linares, Representative Aman; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Sam Belsito and I am proud to represent the 53rd District, which encompasses the towns of Ashford, Tolland, and Willington. I am testifying in support of bill HB 5178.

Each and every year dog owners make the trek to town and city halls across Connecticut to purchase a license for their dog due to an obsolete law which no longer has a justifiable reason for its existence. I do understand dogs must have a license. Without a license, there would not be a sensible method of keeping track of how many dogs are in our state. At the same time, why must owners purchase a yearly license?

This concept is very simple, dog owners would only have to purchase a license every three years. The reason being, each and every dog is required to receive a rabies vaccination every three years. Since the vaccination usually last for this long, why not issue the license within two weeks of the rabies vaccination for three years. By linking the license and the vaccination, this will simplify the process for the state's dog owners. Moreover, the towns and cities would not be overwhelmed with individuals trying to obtain a dog license each year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sam Belsito
State Representative
53rd District