



***PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE***

March 11, 2016

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut’s statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut’s population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

**SB 421      “An Act Concerning Community Empowerment and the Neighborhood Assistance Act”**

CCM **has concerns with SB 421** and the mandated establishment of at least one Community Investment Board (CIB) in every town and city. The bill would require that these boards be used to determine the distribution and expenditure of municipal aid received under the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account or PILOT grants.

The bill would allocate that the specified municipal aid would be expended as follows:

1. 35% of such grant shall be expended on priorities identified by the CIB;
2. 35% of such grants shall be expended on priorities identified by the legislative body of the municipality; and
3. 30% shall be expended on priorities jointly agreed upon by the CIB and the legislative body of the municipality. In the event that the community investment board or community investment boards and the legislative body of the municipality cannot agree on priorities for expenditure, thirty per cent of such grant shall be remitted to the state.

SB 421 removes the authority of locally elected governments to implement a budget that funds local services, and best meets the needs of local taxpayers. Rather it creates a board that is not elected by the residents but would be in position to control up to 75% of the municipal revenue sharing grants and PILOT grants.

CCM has concerns with the process by which a Community Investment Board would be comprised, how large is this board required to be, who appoints people to this board, what are the rules and procedures that it will be required to follow. CCM would ask the Committee to address these questions before considering the bill for further action.

SB 421 while well intended, as currently drafted raises too many concerns and leaves too many questions unanswered for CCM to support at this time. CCM would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee and the proponents of the bill to find ways to maximize the impact of state revenue and PILOT grants within our towns and cities.



If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at [rcollins@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rcollins@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 707-6446.