



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 7, 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.

HB 5552, "An Act Concerning Special Education"

This bill would, among other things, require parties to participate in adjudication before conducting a special education hearing.

CCM supports the intent of this bill and efforts to resolve disputes pertaining to special education in ways that avoid unnecessary and costly hearings. However, it is unclear if requiring parties to participate in adjudication before proceedings enter the hearing phase will result in cost savings. While this additional step could result in cost savings for all parties involved, we are concerned that this new mandate could also increase the already costly process of special education hearings.

CCM urges the Committee to **obtain a fiscal note regarding its impact on municipalities before taking action on HB5552.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Daniel C. Giungi, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at dgiungi@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3023.