



***GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION &
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE***

March 17, 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 5616 “An Act Concerning Notices and Public Information”

The bill would, among other things, require that an individual's date of birth be redacted when information is provided through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, prohibit publication of any such list on the Internet web site by the person having requested such list, and require that certain meeting notices are electronically filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on an web site designated by said Secretary.

CCM appreciates the requirement that an individual's date of birth be redacted from such requests, however CCM has concerns regarding the enforcement of the provision which would prohibit the requester from publishing on the Internet. Towns and cities have the obligation to provide the information through FOI, however once that his completed, municipalities cannot control how or what the information is to be used for. CCM would like clarification that once the information is provided to the requester, the municipality is not held responsible for such information being posted on the Internet.

In regards to Section 2, CCM asks for clarification that the requirement of particular meeting notices be sent to the Secretary of the State would only apply to state agencies, and not municipalities. Currently, local officials have a variety of requirements to inform the public regarding important information. Requiring municipalities to comply with this provision will not only be duplicative, but would also impose an undue burden on local officials.

CCM asks the Committee to *provide clarification on the impact HB 5616 would have on towns and cities before taking action.*



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Advocacy Manager of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.