

**TESTIMONY
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 29, 2016
HB 5055 – AN ACT DECREASING WAIT TIMES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF
MOTOR VEHICLES**

Our names are Tony Falzarano and Doug Cutler; respectively we are the Mayor and the Town Administrator for the Town of Putnam. We are opposed to the section of HB 5055 that eliminates the ban on registering motor vehicles and vessels if an individual is delinquent on their property taxes and/or parking fees. This bill eliminates an effective tool in collecting back taxes and reducing the burden on property taxpayers who pay their taxes on time.

Currently, the Town of Putnam holds over \$249,000 in back car taxes that would immediately be in jeopardy of collection due to the changes in HB 5055 if passed. Estimates provided by our Town's Revenue Collector show that in the first year, approximately five (5) percent of the current year's car taxes would also be uncollected due to this change. Based on this estimate, where our current car taxes equal \$1.3 million, five percent would equate to roughly \$66,000 of lost revenue.

It is our Revenue Collector's opinion, that given time, as much as 75% would be uncollectible if there was no penalty for non-payment.

Again, this is another instance of the State Government trying to solve their problems on the back of municipalities.

We strongly urge members of the Committee to vote no on HB 5055.