



***INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE
COMMITTEE***
February 21, 2017

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 542 **"An Act Establishing the Connecticut Special Education Cost Cooperative"**

CCM **has concerns** with this bill.

SB 542 would amend the general statutes to establish the Connecticut Special Education Predictable Cost Cooperative.

While the concept proposed by this bill is intriguing, it is unclear as to how the Cooperative will be funded. It is also unclear as to how aid will be distributed through the Cooperative to fund special education services and programs.

We believe that any decision to adjust the ECS formula or allocation of state aid for special education should be subject to a thorough examination and involve municipal officials.

CCM has vigorously advocated for the need to reform the way the State funds special education and appreciate the dialogue this proposal has generated.

We stand willing to work with the proponents of this legislation to craft a solution that adequately addresses the complex problems of the special education funding system in Connecticut.

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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.