Planning and Development Committee

March 6, 2019

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 99% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

H.B. 6940 "An Act Authorizing Extended Liquor Sales in Designated Nightlife Entertainment Zones."

CCM would ask the Committee to amend HB 6940 to explicitly state that it is at the discretion of the municipality or by local option for a city or town to designate a Nightlife Entertainment Zone.

CCM supports the concept of establishing a revenue sharing program between state and the host municipality of a nightlife entertainment zone where, as authorized by the bill, would allow for an extended liquor sales permit until four o'clock a.m. We are concerned however that the process for establishing the revenue sharing plan is not defined in the proposal. We suggest establishing a food and beverage tax sharing plan.

Revenue sharing with the host community is necessary since local governments provide critical public safety services for the protection of their communities. By extending the sale of alcohol in these nightlife districts by two hours, it will also extend the necessity of local police and/or fire services to be present and available. As a result towns will be shouldering the fiscal burden of increased staffing of police and fire departments during those hours.

We also want to make clear that municipalities should be allowed to collect permit fees for the right to operate within a Nightlife Entertainment Zone, in addition to the proposed revenue sharing plan.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy Carroccia, Advocacy Manager of CCM at dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or (203) 843-0705.