



State of Connecticut

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Public Safety and Security Committee
February 14, 2019

Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 5456
An Act Concerning Use Of Temporary Amusement Structures By Nonprofit Entities.

Co-Chairs Bradley and Verrengia; Vice Chairs Osten, Paolillo; Ranking Member Hwang and Sredzinski; and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of H.B. No. 5456 An Act Concerning Use of Temporary Amusement Structures by Nonprofit Entities.

This legislation aims to assist nonprofits in organizing and hosting events that would otherwise be far too expensive and regulated to host. Currently as the general statutes are written, if a nonprofit had a client hoping to use their Temporary Amusement Structure for an event, they would have to hire the local fire-watch be present. This statute is related to the size of the structure being used as well as the amount of people attending without consideration of the type of event being hosted. Essentially if a nonprofit hosted a wedding with no structure and less than 100 people, they would be able to hold an event without the high costs of a fire-watch team.

As is currently written, chapter 532 of the general statutes greatly disenfranchises nonprofit entities by basing their qualifications on the event's size of attendance and structure. When the fire protection is required at the event, the total cost of the protection is to be determined by the fire marshal of the municipality and those requests shall be furnished by the chief of the fire department, who has the ability to utilize paid, volunteer firemen or both paid and volunteer firemen for these events. What truly affects the nonprofits is that such protection must be paid for by the person or organization operating the event and it is not a cheap expense.

By allowing nonprofit entities to use temporary amusement structures at events, the high cost of applications and public protection can be mitigated, allowing for more events and fundraisers to be held without restrictive regulations.

Bill Buckbee
State Representative
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