



State of Connecticut
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Testimony in Support of House Bill 5457
Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
March 8, 2021

Chairs Fonfara and Scanlon, Vice Chairs Moore, Kavros DeGraw, and Meskers, Ranking Members Cheeseman and Martin, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, thank you for raising HB 5457, An Act Suspending Penalties and Interest for Certain Late Filings.

We all can agree that this past year was unlike any other due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been almost a year since the state effectively shut down to mitigate the virus. Businesses were told that they had to either close or reduce capacity and adhere to social distancing requirements. Certain industries, especially the hospitality industry, have taken a large hit to their bottom line over this past year, while making every accommodation they can to ensure that their customers feel safe when entering through their doors.

Businesses have spent much of their revenues on PPE, hand sanitizer, shields between seats to keep people safe and comfortable while they are patronizing their establishments. The governor, through executive order, pushed back some tax filing dates, granting business owners some additional time to pay taxes and other fees. Individual taxpayers were allowed to either defer or obtain a low interest rate on their overdue tax payments. These are all good policies that provided much needed relief to individuals and businesses struggling during this pandemic.

This bill would suspend the imposition of penalties and interest for certain late filings to assist individuals and businesses. Specifically, the bill would suspend interest and penalties for the late filing of permits, fees, taxes or personal property declarations for a period of one year. Passing this legislation would send a signal to individuals and businesses that the state understands the tough conditions they operate under and will help them during these tough times. While this bill only suspends these late filing fees for one year, it would allow individuals and businesses time to recover from this pandemic.

This is good, common sense policy that will help individuals and businesses who need a hand recovering from this pandemic. Again, thank you for raising HB 5457. We urge the committee to pass this important piece of legislation.