

File No. 644

(Reprint of File No. 367)

Substitute House Bill No. 5669  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedules "A", "C", "D" and "E"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 30, 1998

AN ACT VALIDATING THE ACTIONS OF THE TOWN OF  
COLCHESTER, HUNTERS RUN TAX DISTRICT, THE  
LITCHFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT, EXTENDING THE TASK  
FORCE ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION AND  
VALIDATING CERTAIN MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of  
Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
2 section 12-146 of the general statutes, the town  
3 of Colchester shall not charge or collect interest  
4 on unpaid taxes for the period commencing on July  
5 1, 1996, to February 1, 1998, inclusive, for which  
6 collection had been waived by the tax collector  
7 and was not made under the hands of the proper  
8 authority according to law with respect to  
9 property on the grand lists for the years 1982 to  
10 1994, inclusive.

11 Sec. 2. Section 3 of special act 97-14 is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 The Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
14 Management shall establish a pilot program for the  
15 fiscal years commencing ON OR AFTER July 1, 1997,  
16 [July 1, 1998, and July 1, 1999] UP TO AND  
17 INCLUDING JULY 1, 1999, in no more than the five  
18 towns approved by the Office of Policy and

19 Management. The purpose of said pilot program  
20 shall be to improve the tax collection  
21 capabilities of each such town. Notwithstanding  
22 any provision of the general statutes or  
23 regulations adopted thereunder, the approved towns  
24 are authorized, [for the period of the pilot  
25 program only,] to employ a third-party agent,  
26 acting under the direction of the town tax  
27 collection official to collect current and  
28 delinquent property taxes, interest and fees,  
29 provided such collection shall not extend beyond  
30 June 30, [2000] 2002. All procurement processes  
31 and contracts entered into pursuant to this  
32 section shall be approved by the Office of Policy  
33 and Management prior to their execution. [Said  
34 towns] THE TAX COLLECTION OFFICIAL SHALL SUBMIT AN  
35 ANNUAL REPORT AND shall submit a final report no  
36 later than September 15, [2000] 2002, to the task  
37 force established pursuant to section 10 of public  
38 act 95-228, as amended by sections 1 and 2 of  
39 [this act] SPECIAL ACT 97-14, comparing tax  
40 collections under the pilot program to previous  
41 years, any administrative savings realized by  
42 participation in the pilot program and any  
43 additional information the task force requests.

44 Sec. 3. Notwithstanding any provision of the  
45 general statutes or regulations adopted  
46 thereunder, the town of Seymour is authorized, for  
47 the period of ten years to employ a third-party  
48 agent, acting under the direction of the town tax  
49 collection official to collect current and  
50 delinquent property taxes. All procurement  
51 processes and contracts entered into pursuant to  
52 this section shall be approved by the Office of  
53 Policy and Management prior to their execution.

54 Sec. 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of No.  
55 132 of the Special Acts of 1959, as amended, any  
56 actions taken by the Litchfield Historic District  
57 between August 1, 1989, and December 31, 1998, if  
58 taken in accordance with (1) the applicable  
59 procedures required by sections 7-147a through  
60 7-147k, inclusive, of the general statutes, and  
61 (2) the applicable procedures required by the  
62 Litchfield Historic District Commission Ordinance  
63 dated August 1, 1989, are validated.

64 Sec. 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
65 subsection (b) of section 46b-24 of the general  
66 statutes, any marriage license which has been

67 issued on or after April 15, 1998, but prior to  
68 July 6, 1998, by the registrar for the town in  
69 which the marriage is to be celebrated, shall be  
70 sufficient authority for any person authorized to  
71 perform a marriage ceremony in this state to join  
72 such persons in marriage, provided the ceremony is  
73 performed within the town where the license was  
74 issued not later than July 6, 1998.

75 Sec. 6. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of  
76 chapters 3, 90, 105, 110 and 112 of the general  
77 statutes and sections 12-129d, 12-130, 12-136,  
78 12-144a, 12-145, 12-147, 12-151 and 12-155 to  
79 12-159, inclusive, of the general statutes,  
80 actions of the meetings, boards of directors, tax  
81 collectors and officials of The Hunters Run Tax  
82 District organized and existing under chapter 105  
83 of the general statutes, pursuant to the minutes  
84 of its organization meeting recorded in the Avon  
85 Land Records at Volume 174, Page 258, in the  
86 calling of meetings, holding of votes, passage of  
87 ordinances, execution of contracts and agreements,  
88 establishment of budgets, assessment, levy and  
89 collection of taxes and enlargement and definition  
90 of territorial limits, are hereby validated.

91 (b) The territory of the district shall be and  
92 shall have been deemed to be phase 1 and 2 of the  
93 territory of Hunter's Run, a condominium developed  
94 by Hunter's Run, Inc., Nod Road, Avon,  
95 Connecticut, as described as follows: Being town  
96 parcels of land shown as "Land Not Subject to  
97 Development Rights Area 55.231 Acres +/-" and  
98 "Land Not Subject to Development Rights Area 1.432  
99 Acres" on a certain map or plan entitled "Zoning  
100 Location Survey 'Hunters Run' A Condominium To Be  
101 Developed By: Hunter's Run Condominiums, L.L.C.  
102 Nod Road Avon, Connecticut Scale 1"=200' December  
103 10, 1997 Hodge Surveying Associates, P.C. D-1 Job  
104 79-49 Drw 88" certified as "substantially correct  
105 as noted thereon Francis A. Richard, L.S. #1135,  
106 Surveyor" on file in the Avon Land Records as  
107 Drawer No. 97, Map No. 106.

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

\* \* \* \* \*

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5669**

STATE IMPACT	Minimal Revenue Loss,	see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	Cost, Minimal Revenue Loss,	see explanation below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Office of Policy and Management	

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

STATE IMPACT: A minimal revenue loss to the state may result to the extent that temporarily extending the time period during which a marriage license is valid allows certain couples to marry without obtaining a second marriage license. A \$20 surcharge is paid, of which \$19 is transmitted to the State and \$1 is retained by the town registrar.

There is not anticipated to be any cost to the Office of Policy and Management as a result of extending the property tax pilot program.

House "D" validates certain marriages that have occurred after a license has expired and results in the minimal revenue loss described above.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: The bill will result in a refund of interest payments of approximately \$22,000 that were recently billed to taxpayers in Colchester and are expected to be collected in March and April.

Since it assumed that municipalities selected to participate in the property tax pilot program would only continue in the program if it yielded administrative cost savings, greater tax revenue, or

both. Since currently no towns are participating in the five town pilot program, it is unlikely extending the program will result in any positive fiscal impact.

The fiscal impact of extending Seymour's ability to contract with a third party to collect taxes is unknown since the report, due by September 15, 1998, to the task force on Municipal Property Tax Collection comparing Seymour's tax collections under the program to previous years is not complete.

House "A" extends the pilot program and results in the municipal impact described above.

House "C" and "E" validate actions of the Litchfield Historic District and Hunter's Run Tax District and have no fiscal impact.

House "D" validates certain marriages that have occurred after a license has expired and results in the minimal revenue loss described above.

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#### **OFA AMENDED BILL ANALYSIS**

SHB 5669 (as amended by House "A", "C", "D", "E")\*

#### **AN ACT VALIDATING THE ACTIONS OF THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER WITH RESPECT TO INTEREST CHARGES FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY TAXES AND EXTENDING THE TASK FORCE ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION**

**SUMMARY:** The bill permits the waiver of accrued interest from the period between July 1, 1996 and February 1, 1998 for unpaid taxes in the Town of Colchester.

The bill also extends the pilot program that allows up to five municipalities to hire private contractors to collect current and delinquent taxes. The bill extends from June 30, 2000 to June 30, 2002 municipalities participating in the pilot program to contract with a private contractor and extends from September 15, 2000 to September 15, 2002 the final reports due by participating municipalities to the Task Force on Municipal Property Tax Collection.

The bill allows a town registrar to marry a couple no later than July 6, 1998, provided a marriage license has been issued to them between April 15, 1998 and July 6, 1998. (Under current law, a marriage license is valid for not more than sixty-five days after issuance.)

The bill validates actions of the Litchfield Historic District and the Hunter's Run Tax District.

\*House Amendment "A" extends the pilot program that allows up to five municipalities and Seymour to hire private contractors to collect current and delinquent taxes.

\*House Amendment "C" validates actions taken by the Litchfield Historic District.

\*House Amendment "D" validates certain marriages that have occurred after a license has expired.

\*House Amendment "E" validates actions of Hunter's Run Tax District.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Passage

**FURTHER EXPLANATION:**

Property Tax Pilot Program

The property tax pilot program allows up to five municipalities to hire third party agents to collect current and delinquent taxes, interest and fees under the direction of their respective tax collectors. Currently, there are no municipalities that have been approved to participate in the five-town pilot program expansion. Currently, Seymour is participating in the program under specific authorization pursuant to PA 96-217.

Municipalities must submit periodic reports to the Task Force on Municipal Property Tax Collection evaluating their programs. The reports must compare tax collection under the pilot program with that of prior years and identify any administrative savings realized. The reports must also include any additional information the task force requests.