HB 5951 PA 415 scan 1984

House - 4152 - 4157 (6)

Senate - 2857 - 2858, 2872 (3)

Finance - 876 - 885, 902 - 903 (12)

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JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

FINANCE,
REVENUE AND
BONDING
PART 3
656-988

1984

Rep. Sarasin.

REP. SARASIN: (105th)

In the affirmative, please.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Rep. Sarasin in the affirmative.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5661, as amended by House Amendment Schedules "A" and "B".

Total number voting	144
Necessary for passage	73
Those voting yea	144
Those voting nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

The bill is passed.

CLERK:

Page 25, Calendar 667, House Bill 5951, AN ACT PROVIDING EXEMPTION FROM SALES TAX FOR SALES OF HOME DELIVERED MEALS TO HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS. Favorable Report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

REP. SMOKO: (91st)

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Rep. Ronald Smoko.

REP. SMOKO: (91st)

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Will you remark?

REP. SMOKO: (91st)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 3642. I'd ask that he call and I be permitted to summarize.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

The Clerk has LCO 3642, House "A". Will the Clerk please call.

CLERK:

LCO 3642, designated House "A", offered by Rep. Smoko.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Is there objection to summarization? Seeing none, please proceed.

REP. SMOKO: (91st)

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the amendment clarifies the existing Revenue Services interpretation on what is a meal for off-premises consumption.

It deletes reference to tables, chairs, counters, trays, glasses, dishes or other tableware to bring it into conformity with Revenue Services interpretation. The fiscal note indicates no revenue impact at all, based upon the fact that it is simply a clarifying amendment, and I would urge adoption.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Will you remark further on House "A"? If not, all those in favor of the amendment, please indicate by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

All those to the contrary, nay. The amendment is adopted.

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House Amendment Schedule "A".

* ***

Before line 1, insert section 1 as follows and renumber the remaining sections accordingly:

"Section 1. Subsection (m) of section 12-412 of the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of public act 83-18, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(m) "Food products" include cereals and cereal products, milk and milk products, oleomargarine, meat and meat products, fish and fish products, eggs and egg products, vegetables and vegetables products, fruit and

fruit products, spices and salt, sugar and sugar products oter than candy and confectionery; coffee and coffee substitutes, tea, cocoa and cocoa products other than candy and confectionery. "Food products" do not include spirituous, malt or vinous liquors, soft drinks, sodas or beverages such as are ordinarily dispensed at bars and soda fountains, or in connection therewith, medicines except by prescription, tonics and preparations in liquid, powdered, granular, tablet, capsule, lozenge and pill form sold as dietary supplements or adjuncts. "Food products" also do not include meals (on or off the premises of the retailer or drinks or foods furnished, prepared or served for consumption at tables, chairs or counters or from trays, glasses, dishes or other tableware provided by the retailer. The sale of a meal consisting of any of the items defined herein ordinarily sold for immediate consumption on or near the locatin of the retailer is a taxable sale, even though such products are sold on a "take out" or "to go" order and are actually packaged or wrapped and taken from the premises.) SOLD BY AN EATING ESTABLISHMENT OR CATERER. "MEALS" MEANS FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH ARE FURNISHED, PREPARED OR SERVED IN SUCH A FORM AND IN SUCH PORTIONS THAT THEY ARE READY FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION, AND INCLUDES FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH ARE SOLD ON A "TAKE OUT" OR "TO GO" BASIS AND WHICH ARE ACTUALLY PACKAGED OR WRAPPED. "EATING ESTABLISHMENT" MEANS A PLACE WHERE MEALS ARE SOLD AND INCLUDES A RESTAURANT, CAFETERIA, GRAINDER SHOP, PIZZERIA, DRIVE-IN, FAST FOOD OUTLET, ICE CREAM TRUCK, HOT DOG CART, VENDING MACHINE, REFRESHMENT STAND, SANDWICH SHOP, PRIVATE OR SOCIAL CLUB, COCKTAIL LOUNGE, TAVERN, DINER, SNACK BAR OR HOTEL OR BOARDING HOUSE WHICH FURNISHES BOTH LODING AND MEALS TO ITS GUESTS."

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SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Will you remark further?

REP. SMOKO: (91st)

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Rep. Smoko.

REP. SMOKO: (91st)

The original bill was taken off the consent earlier for the purposes of this amendment. Since there was no exception, I feel everybody is probably satisfied with it and I would urge passage of the bill.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further? If not, will members please be seated. Staff and guests to the well of the House. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is now voting by roll. Members please return to the Chamber immediately. The House of Representatives is now voting by roll. Members please return to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Have all the members voted and is your vote properly recorded?

If so, the machine will be locked.

The Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5951, as amended by House "A".

Total number voting	143
Necessary for passage	72
Those voting	143
Those voting nay	0
Those absent and not voting	8

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

The bill is passed.

CLERK:

Page 21, Calendar 635, Substitute for House Bill 5374, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH. Favorable Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Rep. Dorothy Goodwin.

REP. GOODWIN: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Will you remark?

REP. GOODWIN: (54th)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. There is an amendment, LCO No. 3771. Would the Clerk please call and may I summarize.

If there is no objection, I move that it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 705, File 849. House Bill 5951. AN ACT PROVIDING EXEMPTION FROM SALES TAX FOR SALES OF HOME DELIVERED MEALS TO HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule A. Favorable report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Skelley.

SENATOR SKELLEY:

Mr. President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended by House Amendment A.

THE CHAIR:

Do you wish to remark?

SENATOR SKELLEY:

Yes, Mr. President. This provides a sales tax exemption for sale of home delivered meals to homebound individuals. The amendment merely clarifies what a meal is.

If there is no objection, I would move this to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Hearing no objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 700, Files 528 and 870. Substitute for House Bill 5090. AN ACT CONCERNING GUBERNATORIAL SUCCESSION, as amended by House Amendment Schedule A. Favorable report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Owens.

SENATOR OWENS:

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended by House Amendment Schedule A.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR OWENS:

Yes, Mr. President. A very important piece of legislation. It would establish a nine member council on gubernatorial incapacity. It would set the council's membership and the procedures to be followed in reaching any decision on the

so ordered.

The Clerk will make the appropriate announcement for a roll call on the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been called for in the Senate. Will all senators please take their seats. An immediate roll call has been called for in the Senate. Will all senators please be seated.

THE CHAIR:

Please give your attention to the Clerk who will read the Consent Calendar to date, which will be the first of perhaps a few more. Please give your attention to the Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. President. Page two - Cals. 469, 505, 561, 568, Page three - Cals. 609, 640 and 646. Page four - Cals. 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, and 665. Page five - Cals. 667, 669, 670 and 671. Cals. on Page six - 674, 676 and 677. Page seven - Cals. 678, 679, 680 and 682. Page eight - Cals. 683, 684, 686 and 687. Page nine - Cals. 688, 689, 690, 691, 692 and 693. Page ten - Cals. 694, 695, 696, 697 and 698. Page eleven - Cals. 699, 700, 701, 702 and 703. Page twelve - Cals. 704, 705, 706, 707 and 712. Page thirteen - Cals. 713, 714, 715 and 716. I believe that completes the list.

SB260-HB5208
SB526-SB581
HB5826-HB5701
HB5768-HB5155
HB5273-HB5636
HB5865-HB5875
HB5903-HB5411
HB5031-HB5504
HB5451-HB5892
HB5909-HB5702
HB5159-HB5759
HB5380-HB5709
HB5729-HB5532
HB5829-HB5611

HB5565-HB5693 HB5152-HB5215 HB5951-HB5090
HB5840-HB5820 HB5374-HB5734 HB5825-HB5893
HB5195-HB5412 HB5060-HB5661 HB5441-HB5945
HB5599-HB5097 HB5200-HB5948 HB5938-HB5394

REP. GELSI: But I didn't ask the question facetiously, neither, and I spent 9½ years of local government and I don't know of one. And we do alot of holes in the Town of Enfield, and I can take you and show you every one right now, today.

Are there any other questions? Okay. I guess that's it.

MR. KING: Thank you.

REP. GELSI: The next speaker is Clover Kinian? Gloria. Well it looks like C-L-O-V-E. I started to call you Clove, but --

Would you please give me your name for the record.

MS. GLORIA KNIEREM: Yes, name is Gloria Knierem. I'm here speaking on Bill 5951, to exempt sales tax from home delivered meals to homebound people.

I coordinate a Meals-On-Wheels Program for the Valley Homemaker Health Aid Service. The program serves approximately 70 meals a day, 5 days a week.

The service area is Avon, Canton, East Granby, Granby, and Simsbury. It's a private non-profit agency. All of our route coordinators and drivers are volunteers. People are not refused service because of inability to pay. We use a slighting scale based on an individual's income. Every effort is used to minimize costs.

Many recipients have limited income and some use food stamps.

A state sales tax on home delivered meals to persons who are unable to provide for their own meals is unreasonable.

Additional costs to cover sales tax is unrealistic for recipients as well for our agency. Most probably, other services would have to be reduced. Our request is that you vote for House Bill 5951. Thank you.

REP. GELSI: Any questions of the members? Rep. Emmons.

REP. EMMONS: My questions is that I have seen different bills of other Meals-On-Wheels but they don't encourage the sales tax. How come, if you are a non-profit organization, wouldn't you be exempt from sales tax for sales that you are charged with?

MS. KNIEREM: Well, this would be a tax to the recipient. We are -- you know -- we have a federal exempt number when we are purchasing things. But this would be a tax our recipients would have to pay on the meals they receive.

REP. EMMONS: Well, do you -- do you apply for sales tax?

MS. KNIEREM: No, no, we really don't. We were not aware there was a sales tax. It became evident in early fall after the sessions of last summer exempted certain services from sales tax. The people -- the Meals-On-Wheels Programs of the state realized that maybe they were not exempt, and maybe we should be paying a sales tax.

REP. EMMONS: We you're really not sure whether you're supposed to pay.

MS. KNIEREM: Well, the way it reads, we haven't seen that we are exempt anywhere.

REP. EMMONS: And you have a big collection.

MS. KNIEREM: No.

REP. EMMONS: I have no problem with the bill, but my question is would you -- as long as it's a non-profit organization, would you be susceptible to having it restricted to non-profit so that it isn't you don't end up having a profit making organization being exempt from the bill.

MS. KNIEREM: I'm only concerned with the non-profit agency.

REP. GELSI: Rep. Torpey.

REP. TORPEY: I'm missing your point whether this is a non-profit organization.

MS. KNIEREM: We are non-profit --

REP. TORPEY: I mean what's the point -- I'm missing your point on that applies to sales tax.

MS. KNIEREM: Well, basically we're a non-profit private agency, or United Way agency. We keep our prices down.

REP. TORPEY: What I'm getting at is the tax on the meal. I could see where you as an organization would be tax-exempt; I could understand that. What difference does it make whether you're profit or non-profit if you're supplying the service to a person, an individual.

Supposing you were a profit-making organization. You were supplying meals to individuals. Why should that person pay for the sales tax, if a non-profit does not pay.

It's the individual that pays the tax. You collect it. You pay it to the State. You're not making money either way on the tax. It's the person that's getting the benefit of this. What difference does it make whether you're non-profit --

MS. KNIEREM: Well, most of our people really find it very difficult to pay full fee. We operate on a slighting scale. We keep our prices down to the people. Many of our people are on food stamps, some are income maintenance people, it's difficult --

REP. TORPEY: How about the ones that maybe earn about adjusted 30 or $40,000 income. What they're -- they're not able to get around, and it's a service that you supply.

MS. KNIEREM: It's not typical -- our program runs throughout the State, I don't think.

REP. TORPEY: Well, I don't think it's typical of most people (inaudible -- not speaking into mike).

But I'm just using that to an extreme to highlight a point.

MS. KNIEREM: These are basically people who have had many

MS. KNIEREM: (continued)
social service cuts -- food stamps cuts, these people are -- many of them are elderly, some are disabled, they're homebound people.

REP. TORPEY: Okay.

REP. GELSI: Rep. Shays.

REP. SHAYS: Is it likely that some of your individuals you serve would end up in nursing homes if you did not provide this service?

MS. KNIEREM: Could definitely.

REP. GELSI: Are there any other questions?

I still -- you said you have a federal tax stamp. Don't you have a state tax stamp?

MS. KNIEREM: Not to my knowledge.

REP. GELSI: Was a non-profit -- I think --

MS. KNIEREM: We have a tax number that if we go out and purchase something -- like if I purchased a cooler for my program, I don't have to pay tax on it.

REP. GELSI: That's Connecticut sales tax. I understand. That's for Connecticut sales tax. Didn't you have -- you have the Connecticut exemption.

MS. KNIEREM: Oh, yes. Yes. That number. Yes.

REP. GELSI: Alright. I was -- I thought you said you did not have it, and only had the federal.

MS. KNIEREM: Yes. I didn't make that clear I'm sure.

REP. GELSI: This is the Meals-On-Wheels bill. Okay. If there are no other questions, thank you.

MS. KNIEREM: Thank you.

REP. GELSI: The next one is Elizabeth Smith.

MS. ELIZABETH SMITH: Good morning. I'm here for 5951, also.

REP. GELSI: Would you please give your name for the record.

MS. SMITH: Elizabeth Ann Smith. And I am here for Bill 5951. I represent the Valley Homemaker Health Aid Service from the Farmington Valley.

I'm here as an Advisory Board member and also as a volunteer Meals-On-Wheels driver.

From the agency's point of view, it is a private non-profit agency. We do not use any tax money at all. The agency is quite proud of that. There's one town, we serve 5 towns with the Meals-On-Wheels, and there is 1 town of the 5 that we need to accept tax monies for and that's because they don't have the United Way or the community fund services.

The other point, of course, is the recipient. I drove Meals-On-Wheels, delivered Meals-On-Wheels, every Tuesday for one year. As a matter of fact, I highly recommend that as a volunteer activity. It might be good if each one of you did that a couple of times. It puts you right in touch with what the program is about and about people who live at home and who these Meals-On-Wheels make a difference to.

When I was delivering meals, we had a 26-year old man that we delivered to who was totally blind, and was in the process of rehabilitation. He lived in a trailer, had very little money, the meals made a difference.

Many of them -- participants, of course, are elderly. They are staying in their home. Many live in these elderly housing in the towns. It would seem incongruous to me that people who are struggling every day to stay in their own homes, not to go into institutions, not to have to be dependent on their families, but they would have to pay this sales tax.

It just seems appropriate that this exemption do apply to Meals-On-Wheels.

REP. GELSI: Thank you. Is there any other questions by members of the Committee? Thank you very much.

Bob Geoghegan. Please give your name for the record.

MR. BOB GEOGHEGAN: My name is Bob Geoghegan, and I am the Executive Director of the agency in Manchester which provides Meals-On-Wheels for the Manchester-Bolton area.

And I would also like to speak in favor of Bill No. 5951 and I agree certainly with everything that's already been said. And there's just 2 points I would like to add.

And just quickly, the profile of the client who is receiving Meals-On-Wheels is a frail, elderly, handicapped type person who is completely homebound, is unable to go out and shop for themselves and/or prepare meals for themselves. And that's the primary purpose of a Meals-On-Wheels Program, is to supply meals to those particular types of people.

And had they been able to go out and shop and buy the food, that these meals are replacing, they certainly would not be taxed in the supermarket as far as purchasing this particular kind of food.

And the last item I would like to add in addition to what's already been said is that there is already precedence for exempting this type of meals in the Statutes. I'm sure Meals-On-Wheels just hadn't come into existence when the Statutes were originally written.

However, meals in convalescent homes, hospitals, and homes for the aged are already currently exempted from sales tax as part of the Statutes.

Thank you.

REP. GELSI: I think the only bad example you used is maybe the hospitals. Rep. Torpey.

REP. TORPEY: Yes, how do you spell your last name?

MR. GEOGHEGAN: G-E-O-G-H-E-G-A-N.

REP. TORPEY: We might (inaudible).

REP. GELSI: Rep. Kezer has a question.

REP. KEZER: My only --

(gap in tape)

s. 2 We have people here -- on several days, you know, when there's been non-school days and things because of inclement weather, I always hear the Meals-On-Wheels Program will not be delivered that day.

What does that mean to that poor frail, elderly person that can't get out to the store? It's always concerned me when I've heard this because what does that person do for the day? Starve?

MR. GEOGHEGAN: Okay. In our case, in Manchester, we've been in existence for 7 years providing Meals-On-Wheels and we have never missed a day as of yet.

REP. KEZER: Have you heard --

MR. GEOGHEGAN: Yes, I have heard the same announcements on the radio as you have heard as well.

REP. KEZER: Does it bother you?

MR. GEOGHEGAN: It does. It bothers us very much. Yes. And what we do, it might be for some of the other people, but the Manchester Police Department assists us whenever we can't get the drivers as well as the 4-Wheel Drive Club in the Town of Manchester assists us in actually delivering the meals.

REP. GELSI: Yes. Rep. Shays.

REP. SHAYS: Could you just repeat your point of the total group that exempted right now.

MR. GEOGHEGAN: I'm sorry, I --

REP. SHAYS: What are the total groups that are exempted right now?

MR. GEOGHEGAN: Okay. The 3 that I have listed are hospitals, convalescent homes, and homes for the aged.

REP. GELSI: Any other questions? Okay, thank you, Bob. Patricia Wallace. Is Patricia Wallace here?

MS. PATRICIA WALLACE: Members of the Committee, good morning. I am Patricia Wallace, a social worker on the staff of the Office of Urban Affairs of the Roman Catholic Archdioses of Hartford. I'm here to speak on behalf of our Board of Directors. One of our programs is the Elderly Nutrition Project of South Central Connecticut.

I,too, wish to speak in favor of Raised Committee Bill 5951. Let's see. As others have already testified, the program is dedicated to preserving the dignity of our incapacitated senior citizens. We receive referrals from a wide variety of community agencies as well as from people themselves.

We served approximately 25,000 meals in South Central Connecticut, a 10-town region, last year at a cost of $4 per meal; 13,000 of those meals were paid for through third-party payment programs. Under the present Statutes, the remaining 12,000 meals were taxable.

This additional cost, totaling $3600 or an average cost of $78 per person, would have to be passed on to the elderly and handicapped should the proposed bill not pass.

A few statistics on our client group, our -- the majority of our clients are on fixed incomes, are struggling to remain in independent living situations. A recent study showed that 79% of our homebound clients are 70+ years of age; 39% are 80+ years of age and 6% are 90+ years of age; 52% suffer from cardiovascular disease or stroke; 24% suffer from diabetes; 70% require therapeutic diets; 55% live alone; 42% live with a spouse or other relative or friend; 78% live in a private home or apartment; 16% live in public housing.

MS. WALLACE: (continued)

This complementary program is operated in addition to the Elderly Nutrition Project on a non-profit basis to ensure that needy seniors in the South Central Region receive the food they need to sustain life. Therefore, we ask that you approve this simple modification in order to facilitate the program's continuance.

I'd like to just respond to a question that Rep. Kezer asked earlier, if I might.

In our area, sometimes the -- when the weather is very difficulty, we do not deliver. But what we do is to have pre-packaged meals which are provided to the seniors before winter weather sets in so that if there are days on which we cannot deliver, and those days are very few, people have pre-packaged meals that they can have that day. They are not hot meals, but they are a meal which provides the full 1/3 of the nutritional benefits that a normal home delivered meal would provide.

So we are not leaving them stranged.

REP. KEZER: Is this (inaudible -- not speaking into mike).

MS. WALLACE: Yes.

REP. GELSI: Any other questions?

REP. CAREY: Just a comment (inaudible -- not speaking into mike) in Windham. (inaudible)

MS. WALLACE: That's right.

REP. GELSI: Any other questions or comments? Thank you. John, did -- John King, did you testify?

MR. KING: Yes, sir, I did.

REP. GELSI: Okay. Martin Burke. I guess the Chairman didn't like you. He didn't put any (inaudible).

MR. MARTIN BURKE: Well, I don't know.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Finance Committee, my name is Martin Burke, and I represent the Connecticut Water Works Association.

This is an association comprised of many public water supply utilities serving the State of Connecticut. There are currently 21 publicly owned and 17 investor owned utilities in the Association. And combined, these utilities serve a population of approximately 2¼ million people located throughout the State of Connecticut.

As purveyors of public drinking water, members of the Association have an obligation to provide sufficient qualities of high -- sufficient quantities of high quality water at a reasonable cost to consumers.

In view of this obligation, the Water Works Association and its members are of course interested in all legislation affecting costs and mandates placed upon the public water supply utilities.

Our Association opposes Committee Bill 5446 which would empower municipalities to impose a fee on parties doing street excavation. The bill would add to already existing municipal powers, the power to pose such a fee, and the fee would cover the full inspection by the municipality, and to the extent determinable, the estimated value of the reduction in the anticipated street life of the street.

We feel the bill would operate unfairly against utilities for several reasons. No. 1, there is no limitation as to what that fee could be. Secondly, in the instance of water utilities, which serve only a portion of the town, such a fee would be discriminatory because it would be enacting from the rate payers monies to repair municipal streets which are town-wide or a municipality-wide obligation.

And thirdly, utilities are now required to restore excavations and pavement to the condition it was in before the construction. Moreover, most utilities companies

MR. DUNN: (continued)
but a smooth surface because then their pounding on a road could affect the work that we did to lay the new mains and that would only be costing us more in the long run if it wasn't taken care of as soon as possible.

REP. CASEY: Right, I can understand that. Now, do you have a system of going out to bid or do you use special contractors to do specific jobs?

MR. DUNN: We do have a bid system, but prior to that we have a list of contractors who have to be approved before they could even submit the bids. And that has to do with their track record and --

REP. CASEY: So that's --

MR. DUNN: So, so --

REP. CASEY: So what it comes down to your company will police if you have a number of calls coming in from an ex-contractor who has done 5 or 6 over the past 4 years, well, then that contractor won't get the job.

MR. DUNN: Then he wouldn't be on the approved list.

REP. CASEY: Okay. Thank you.

REP. GELSI: Any questions from any other members? There are none. Thank you, Mr. Dunn.

MR. DUNN: Thank you.

REP. GELSI: The last speaker that has signed up to speak is Joseph Murphy.

MR. JOSEPH MURPHY: Good morning. My name is Joseph Murphy Mancini. I am the Director of Social Services for the Visiting Nurse and Home Care, Inc.

I'm here today to testify and to encourage your support for Bill 5951. This bill would exempt state sales tax on home delivered meals for elderly, disabled,

MR. MURPHY: (continued)
and homebound individuals. The Visting Nurse and Home Care, Inc., is a voluntary, non-profit and United Way agency. We provide Meals-On-Wheels for approximately 365 people per day.

All of these individuals are elderly and/or handicapped living on fixed incomes.

I'm sure you are all well aware of how difficult it is for our elderly to live on fixed incomes. On behalf of the elderly who many are homebound who cannot attend this hearing, wish your support of Bill 5951. Thank you.

REP. GELSI: Any questions by the members of the Committee? There are none. Thank you, Murphy. One more speaker, Don Kirshbaum from Connecticut Conference Municipalities.

MR. DON KIRSHBAUM: Thank you. I'm Don Kirshbaum, Director of Intergovernmental Finance in the Connecticut Conference Municipalities.

We are testifying today in support of Senate Bill 628 and House Bill 5446.

Senate Bill 628 would increase by 25% certain municipal user fees which are set by the General Statutes. Over 50 municipal user fees have their levels set by State Statute. Municipalities must charge service users the amount listed in the Statutes.

628 would increase most of these fees. Many of these fees have not been increased in recent years, and a few have not been increased since the 1960's.

Statutorily authorized user fees should be set at levels sufficient to recover local costs for providing these services.

This bill would help do this.

House Bill 5446 would allow municipalities to impose a fee upon persons or companies involved in street