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CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

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VOL.53
PART 16
4949 – 5314

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 449.

THE CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 449, substitute for Senate Bill Number 312, AN ACT MANDATING THE REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION CENTERS AND A STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION, favorable report of the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila, of the 37th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question is acceptance and passing, in concurrence with the Senate.

Please proceed.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2016, this bill makes funding available to municipalities for enhanced 9-1-1 telecommunications, only if they have joined with two

or more other municipalities to form a regional emergency telecommunications center. It also provides on or after July 1, 2016, funding for replacement of existing 9-1-1 terminal equipment for public safety emergency telecommunication centers, only if such answering point is part of a regional public safety emergency telecommunications center.

Finally, the bill requires the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, which administers the state's E911 program, to use money in the E911 telecommunications fund to study public safety answering point regionalization issues and submit its finding to the Public Safety and Security Committee by July 1, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession Amendment LCO Number 4100. I would ask that the Clerk call the amendment and that I be given leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Clerk, please call LCO 4100, previously designated Senate Amendment "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4100, Senate "A," offered by Senator Stillman and Representatives Dargan, and Perillo.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amendment exempts municipalities with a population of 40,000 or more from the requirements to join with other municipalities in order to be eligible, the rationale being that they have already realized the efficiencies and regionalization due to their size.

The amendment also makes some minor modifications to the elements of the elements to be included in the study.

And I would urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate "A."

Further on Senate "A?"

Representative Fawcett, of the 133rd, you have the -- madam, you have the floor.

Well, I'll try Representatives Perillo, of the 113th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you, very much.

The amendment is very appropriate. It provides reasonable exemptions for municipalities of over 40,000 people and was done specifically to ensure that funding they're already getting to maximize the efficiencies they're experiencing stays in place.

And I would urge adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir.

Further on Senate "A?"

Representative Miner, of the 66th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question to the proponent of the amendment, please, if I could, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for those municipalities that would be larger than 40,000, does this amendment allow them to benefit from that funding, even if they're not regionalized, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I heard the question correctly, I think that the good Representative is asking if the municipalities that have populations over 40,000 are able to access the funding without forming with two or more other municipalities. Is that correct?

REP. MINER (66th):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Excuse me. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I -- I'm not sure if I heard that as a question back to me or an answer. Was that a question back to me, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

His last three words were "is that correct."

REP. MINER (66th):

If the gentleman could repeat his response, I did not hear it, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I was simply trying to clarify the good Representative's question because it's a little noisy in here. But, Mr. Speaker, you, I believe, acknowledged that I had the question framed correctly? I'll --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Yes, I did; however, my acknowledgment has no standing, quite frankly.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Okay. Well, let me answer it in a way that, in effect, repeats it. The answer is that municipalities that are over 40,000 in population will have access still to the telecommunications fund without joining with other municipalities.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentleman for his answer.

I rise to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Speaker, we spend a lot of time here talking about the efficiencies of regionalization, and many small communities banded together 20 years ago all

across the state in an effort to create efficiencies. The emergency services answering points know no limit in terms of population. And my concern here is that while we engage in conversations about trying to create efficiencies, ask towns to work together, there are certain circumstances under which we just don't tread, and this is one of them.

Police departments, fire departments throughout this state have enjoyed the comfort of having their own, private answering point. And those are the very answering services that OEMS and others have been trying to consolidate, to ask them to communicate with their neighbor, see if we can find another way of doing this.

I understand the political implications of saying to some municipality you need to talk to your neighbor. We are facing a three-and-a-half billion dollar deficit in this state, Mr. Speaker, and if we can't ask municipalities to have that conversation and we're going to continue to fund them, just as we always have, I don't know how we're going to make this state work. We're just not going to be able to afford it, and this was a perfect opportunity to start that conversation.

So I will be opposing it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Miner.

Further on Senate "A?"

Representative Hetherington, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I may, to the proponent, through you,

Mr. Speaker, would you expand a bit upon the exclusion of municipalities with a population of under 40,000? You touched upon the rationale but I'm not sure that I understand that. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

at the public hearing that the Public Safety and Security Committee held on the bill, we received testimony from the Commissioner of Public Safety, and this was a major concern brought to our attention by the commissioner. And the feeling of the department

was that we would be, in effect, penalizing large municipalities that already had the large population centers that would be equivalent to or greater than some of the towns that would organize together to attain the efficiencies. And the commissioner so testified and, in effect, recommended to us that we consider amending the bill which the -- which was eventually done with the Senate amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, did any first selectmen or other representative of any of those towns come to speak at the hearing? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

I know that there were representatives from a couple, maybe a few towns representing their towns. I'm not sure if they were chief elected officials or not; I don't recall.

One of the key concerns in the bill was the

timing of it. I believe the original bill provided that this would take effect in 2013. We amended the bill in the committee to extend the time period by three years to 2016, and that seemed to satisfy the municipalities who had concerns about it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, do you know if the Council of Small Towns organization took a position on this? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Specifically on the amendment. I'm sorry.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't recall the testimony --

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Okay.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

-- of the Council on Small Towns.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And thank the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on Senate "A?"

Representative Sawyer, of the 55th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about this particular amendment, and I'd like to ask the proponent of it if he could please describe how it would affect either positively or negatively those towns that are involved, such as with a mutual aid society. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Any effects, positive or otherwise, will be within the realm of the towns to determine for themselves. If they organize with two or more other towns, the funding will be available. The funding will continue to be available through

July 1, 2016, as individual call centers. And after that, it will depend upon whether or not they join together.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

What kind of financial penalty, through you, Mr. Speaker, do you believe that this could cost those towns that do not regionalize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, again, it would depend upon what the individual town's plans might be for updating their equipment and whether or not they join together with other towns.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Mr. Speaker, could you -- through you, a question. And could you envision a situation where a town is part-way through improving their equipment structure and they've got a multi-phase process in

which they are doing different levels of their equipment upgrades? Could you see that this could cause them a problem if they are only part way through that by 2016? Through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, it could cause them some difficulty if approaching the 2016 deadline they are not prepared. But, again, the towns that did testify seem to get comfort with the additional three years, and I think that six years should give them more than ample preparation time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker to the proponent, is there a possibility for a waiver for those towns that would not be able to qualify by that time?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is nothing in the legislation that would prohibit the telecommunications office from perhaps granting a waiver. I can't say that with any authority, but I'd certainly think that could be a possibility.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't see it in the language and it make me very concerned that that could not happen, so perhaps he would consider next year, in talking about it, that we might be able to put in a relief valve for, say, a town that is part way through some project that couldn't do it by that particular time period.

Certainly we, and in the august body are very fond of telling our towns exactly what to do. I am with great benefit a recipient of a multi-town mutual aide society where 13 towns have joined together to do, just to do an incredible amount of joint work and to go after not only state funds, local funds, but also federal funds to be able to improve what they have.

But that has been a long process and it has been

something that takes a great deal of cooperation and a great deal of leadership, and it depends on who's at the helm. So sometimes when we tell people to do this, we do not necessarily have the will within the body to get it done. And sometimes they're there in the middle of doing another type of expansion and it's not -- this was not in their plans.

So I thank the gentleman for his answers, and I look forward to revisiting this again next year to be able to have a possible waiver.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Sawyer.

Representative Candelora, you have the floor.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I may, a couple of questions to the proponent of --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed --

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

-- the amendment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

-- sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I understand as I'm reading this amendment that we're seeking to exempt municipalities with a population of over 40,000. I also understand the underlying bill is conducting a study that would help regionalize a town's emergency telecommunication services. Would that mean, then, if this amendment is passed that towns with populations greater than 40,000 would not be considered in the statewide plan, through you,

Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the language in the amendment that would call for the study, I think is very general language that would give the -- those performing the study plenty of leeway in order to come back with various recommendations that could cover the things that the good Representative is concerned about.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So if we were to exempt the towns through this amendment for the purposes of the financial piece, they would not then be excluded from being included in this, in this study for regionalization? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't see anything in the bill or the amendment that would prohibit larger towns being included as part of the study. And the study is due to be reported back next year, 2011, and that still gives an additional five years before the amended language would kick in for the regionalization which, in my view, would give plenty of time for the Public Safety and Security Committee to consider additional amendments to the legislation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I should

reserve this question for the underlying bill but I'll ask it. I'm wondering that if -- as I read the way the underlying bill works, we're incentivizing, essentially, the towns to come together and regionalize. And we're doing it sort of in a way that if they don't regionalize, they're going to lose their funding. So we want to encourage it through giving them this funding mechanism.

If we through this amendment take that funding incentive away from the larger towns, is there any other language left in the underlying bill that would incentivize or require these larger towns maybe to merge with smaller towns? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, no, I don't -- do not believe there is.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I do have concerns with this amendment, in particular, because I think that if we're looking at

regionalization, just because a town may have a larger population doesn't mean that it should be exempt from regionalizing. In fact, it makes a lot of sense for our smaller towns to be able to rely on the resources that are already there in our larger towns.

I can envision, just geographically, a town like North Branford would certainly -- it would make sense for them to be looking to towns in neighboring areas, like Wallingford, New Haven, and East Haven in order to maybe regionalize and be able to perform this telecommunication service. By exempting these larger towns, we're sort of de-incentivizing bringing the large towns to the table. And I'm wondering then in doing this study if the larger towns don't have any skin in this game, how the small towns are really going to be able to meaningfully, effectuate regionalization. It seems as if we're going to need a lot more towns, then, to maybe pull together that spans a larger geographic in our communities. And I think we may be defeating the whole purpose of the underlying bill.

It would seem that if we're really serious about this, we should have left the language the way it is. Let the department come back with a study for the

entire state, considering everybody's population. It seems by carving out these exemptions, we're not really serious about looking at regionalization. We're just continuing to perpetuate our turf wars and to protect the existing policies.

And so I really don't support this amendment. I think it's going against what our underlying philosophies are.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on Senate "A?"

Representative Rojas, of the 9th.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to associate my -- I'd like to associate myself with the comments of Representative Candelora. In the interest of time here and not holding this up, I'd simply like to say I oppose this amendment for the very same reasons.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on Senate "A?" Further on Senate "A?"

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed?

The ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted.

Further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests please return to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please stay. Please stay close to your voting buttons, please. Stay close.

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please take a tally. And would the Clerk please announce a tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 312 as amended by Senate "A," in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	117
Those voting Nay	32
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill as amended passed, in concurrence with the Senate. However, stay tuned. Members, please stay by your voting buttons.

Representative Olson, for what purpose do you rise, madam?

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker I move to suspend the rules for immediate reconsideration of Calendar Number 449.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question before the Chamber is suspension of the rules for immediate consideration of Calendar 449, that's the bill we just previously voted on. All in favor?

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Fine. No objections? So ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 449?

THE CLERK:

Okay. On page 20, Calendar 449, substitute for Senate Bill Number 312, AN ACT MANDATING THE REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION CENTERS AND A STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION, favorable report of the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila, once more, please.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, in concurrence with the Senate and as previously passed by this body.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk has in his possession Amendment LCO 4100, and I ask that the Clerk call the amendment and

that I be given leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Will the Clerks please call LCO 4100, previously designated Senate "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4100, Senate "A," offered by Senator Stillman and Representatives Dargan and Perillo.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila has asked to leave the chamber to summarize briefly.

Please proceed, sir, seeing no objection.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amendment is as previously summarized and adopted by a voice vote.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate "A." Will you remark further on the adoption of Senate "A?"

Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you, very much.

Just to reiterate comments from before, while I agree that perhaps the underlying bill is more robust

than a bill as amended, the amendment that's before us was one that was suggested to us very strongly by the Department of Public Safety, by police chiefs from throughout the region, especially the Chiefs Association. This was a bill and an amendment that was worked on in a bipartisan manner in conference with many members of the Senate as well.

I urge its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, very much, sir.

Further on Senate "A?"

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor of Senate "A," please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Those opposed?

REPRESENTATIVES:

Nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted.

Further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests please retire to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The

machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting Senate Bill 312 as amended, once again by roll call. Members to the chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please take a tally. Would the Clerk please announce a tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 312 as amended by Senate "A," in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	119
Those voting Nay	29
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Bill passed, in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 490.

THE CLERK:

S – 603

CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS
2010

VOL. 53
PART 6
1609 – 1919

Senator McDonald.

SENATOR MCDONALD:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if there's no objection, might this item be placed on the consent calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Motion on the floor to place the item on the consent. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 24, Calendar Number 98, File Number 93, Substitute for Senate Bill 312, AN ACT MANDATING THE RE -- REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION CENTERS, A STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION, favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety, Planning and Development, and Appropriations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President, good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, ma'am.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you. I move the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval and passage, ma'am, would you like to remark further?

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Yes, I would. Thank you, sir.

This bill addresses a -- an opportunity for municipalities to actually save some money by continuing the process of trying to -- of regionalizing public safety answering points throughout the state.

Fifteen years ago, Senator Roraback and I, when we were both in the House, addressed this issue about regionalization on a voluntary basis. And -- and as I said about 15 years has gone by and it's time to get a little more serious. Many departments and towns have regionalized but there are still some that are -- are having some difficulties.

So what this bill does is it brings in the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications to help, in a sense, to mediate this process. And, with that, I do have an amendment to clarify

this bill. If the Clerk would kindly call LCO Number 4100 and that I be allowed to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 4100 which is designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A" offered by Senator Stillman of the 20th District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, sir.

What this amendment does --

THE CHAIR:

Do you move adoption?

SENATOR STILLMAN:

I do move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you for the reminder.

What this amendment does is to extend the time frame to -- for regionalization to be accomplished by 2016. It also addresses the concerns that have

been raised about municipalities with a population of 40,000 or more. So this does not -- this bill does not affect them. It doesn't change anything for those particular towns -- large towns or, I should say, cities.

And just as importantly in Section 3 of the amendment, it outlines the parameters of the duties of the Office of the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications in terms of giving them guidelines as they study this process. It will obviously include all those entities that have a stake in the outcome. And I believe that this amendment clarifies the bill and actually makes the bill better. And I move its adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Motion on adoption of Senate "A" on the floor. Would you like to remark further? If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted.

Will you remark further on Senate Bill 312 as amended by Senate "A"?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President, good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

I do appreciate this bill, and I appreciate the work that Senator Stillman and the Public Safety Committee has done on this. And I do also believe that some regionalization is in order.

At the same time with the amendment that we just passed with populations of 40,000, we are protecting the cities and I can understand that. There are, however, some medium-sized towns, like mine, where I live, that we do a very good job of protecting the citizens with our telecommunications. And I'm fearful that if we consolidate a town like my own with some of the others it may become chaotic. It may become overwhelming. So I would ask that the Clerk, Mr. President, has an amendment, LCO number 3674. I ask that he call the amendment, and I be allowed

to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 3674 to be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "B." It's offered by Senator Kane of the 32nd District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

What this amendment does in line 22, after the year 2016, it changes the municipalities' population to 15,000 or less. Again, a population like my own -- in Watertown, we have 22,000 people and our fire and our police do a great job in handling the community there and keep our residents safe. On any day you could have a motor vehicle accident, you can have a domestic violence dispute -- we've had bank robberies, as a matter

of fact. So what I'm fearful of is -- let's say you -- our contiguous towns, such as Middlebury and Thomaston to the north, that if we consolidate these towns that it would become very chaotic for these transport -- for these communication centers. So I guess, you know, I'm hoping through Senator Stillman that the process will take that into consideration as the study goes forward and not necessarily inhibit these small towns.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on Senate "B"?

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, I would like to make comment on the amendment that is on the floor. Senator Kane and I did talk about his concerns and they certainly are valid -- the ones that -- the concerns of his public safety folks. And let me make this clear. This bill has nothing to do with saying that they don't do a great job. They do the best job. They've got the best responders.

There's no doubt about that.

But I believe that the amendment and that -- and Senate Amendment 1 that has become Senate Amendment "A" addresses the concerns that his community has because it lays out four parameters that I believe will take into consideration what he has talked about on the floor. And so for that reason I would have to oppose the amendment and because I -- I believe that we are covered.

Thank you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If I might, through you, a question for the proponent of the bill?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR KANE:

Is that possible?

THE CHAIR:

Sure, go ahead. For you, Senator Kane.

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Senator Stillman. I appreciate those remarks, and I appreciate the -- the kind words because you're right. They do a great job. I think in all our towns, of course.

I guess my question to you then -- because I will withdraw my amendment if you feel that all the stakeholders will be at the table during this study and we'll be able to figure this out during this period. And so some of the smaller communities -- because I do believe in the regionalization part. I do believe that the smaller towns need this. It'll -- it'll be a cost savings and it'll be helpful in sharing of resources, but, also, there are some towns just caught in the middle there. So I just want to make sure that towns, like mine, will still have that benefit through this process. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you.

Through you, absolutely. I can assure that.

As a matter of fact having had a conversation in negotiating this amendment, which is now Senate "A" on the bill, we had OSAT at the table. We had some representation from the fire entities, the police entities, et cetera, and they agreed that this was the best way to approach it; that we'd have an objective viewpoint and that we'd take into consideration all the concerns and the stakeholders would have a say. And just as further reassurance, the report has to come back to the Public Safety and Security Committee before anything can move forward. So I do believe that we've covered all bases.

Through you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Well, thank you, Mr. President.

I thank Senator Stillman for her answers. I hope that she will still be the chair of the Public Safety Committee in 2016; that we can possibly look forward to her help. So I will withdraw my amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further? I'm sorry. We have a withdrawal of a Senate Amendment "B" on the floor. Seeing no objection, Senate "B" is withdrawn.

We are now on the bill as amended by Senate "A." Would anyone like to remark further on Senate Bill 312 as amended by "A"?

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Yes, sir. If there is -- isn't any further discussion and no objection, I'd like to ask that it be placed on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion on the floor to place the bill on consent. Seeing no objections, so ordered, ma'am.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 25, Calendar Number 113, File Numbers 125 and 609, Substitute for Senate Bill 168, AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND A POLICE OFFICER'S USE OF DEADLY FORCE ON A MAMMAL,

5247, Calendar 457, Substitute for House Bill 5406.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 464, House Bill 5530.

Calendar page 23, Calendar 75, Substitute for Senate Bill 229.

Calendar page 24, Calendar Number 98, Substitute for Senate Bill 312.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed on the first consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

If you would announce the vote again, the machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber? The Senate is now voting by roll on the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? The machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion's on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total number of voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Are there any points of personal privilege or announcements?

Senator Gomes.

SENATOR GOMES:

I'd just like it -- thank you, Mr. President.

I'd just like it to be noted that I missed a vote today on Senate Bill 168, and I was out of the area. And if I'd been here, I would have voted in the affirmative.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. The Journal is so noted.

SENATOR GOMES:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Any further points?

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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COLLEEN MURPHY: It sure does, thank you, Senator.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Because it is flawed and there's one particular issue that's of a concern. The bill is a little too broad. So thank you very much and we do appreciate your input, it's most important.

COLLEEN MURPHY: Okay. Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions, comments? Thank you very much. Next speaker, Ernie, from the 911 Commission.

ERNEST HERRICK: Members of the Public Safety Committee. I'm Ernest Herrick, I'm the chairman of the 911 Commission and I'm here to day to speak in opposition of Raised Bill 312, AN ACT MANDATING REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTERS.

I and the 911 Commission strongly -- or are strongly in favor of regionalization. And we've promoted it over the years since the 911 Commission was appointed -- I tell you, it's been a long time -- probably back in 1995 or a little earlier than that. But we're in favor of the 911 and I've submitted written testimony. I just want to hit on some of it.

The 911 had funding available in the Department of Public Safety Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications so that municipalities went out of state and performed studies -- which were performance studies -- to look at regionalizing two or three or more towns. As you know, we already have a number of regional centers in this state. Some of those regional centers have been used to come up with means for other municipalities to regionalize.

The problem that we've run into is that there have been a number of studies done, and when it came down to signing the dotted line, even though the study showed that they could or should regionalize, and it would save money, when it came down to signing the dotted line, certain entities within that committee or group would not sign for whatever reason.

We just feel -- we feel strongly that Raised Bill 312 is not the way to go, that we need to look at this, take a good hard look at it, study it and come up with a means that's fair to all involved.

If you think about the way the legislation is written, each phone bill has an assessment and the existing legislation -- the cap is 50 cents -- right now the assessment is 47 cents, so we're reaching the cap. And other speakers will talk more into that. But the problem is if a certain entity does not or a municipality does not regionalize, the people in that town are still paying the surcharge on their 911 -- on their phone bill, the 911 surcharge. If that town doesn't regionalize, they don't get the benefit of 911 funding, but the people in the town are still paying for it. So that needs to be looked at.

In closing, I'm not against regionalization. I want to emphasize that. I believe in it. I was active and worked with a dispatch center in Tolland County -- a good dispatch center in Tolland County, which is regionalized. It's proved to save money. It just needs to be done correctly and I'm asking you to do a study on this and make it fair and equitable for the municipalities involved.

Thank you very much and I'll answer any questions.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Ernest. Any questions? Representative Orange.

REP. ORANGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Ernie.

ERNEST HERRICK: Good morning.

REP. ORANGE: The statement of purpose of the bill, it says to provide funding for those municipalities who have formed a regional emergency telecommunications center. But you're saying that this is paid for by a surcharge, no what matter if you're regionalized or you're not regionalized; is that correct?

ERNEST HERRICK: Yes, that's correct. Well, there are some PSAPs in the state that don't get 911 funding. It's based on a 40,000 population. So there are criteria. Some don't get it. If they regionalize, they would. That's one of the things that we use to try to promote regionalization is that we may be able to help you save some money if you regionalize. That we promote now in the study. But those that are in a position where they do get some 911 funding, basically what the legislation is saying is if you don't regionalize by 2013, you lose the funding. Our concern is that it's mandated legislation. We think that it needs to be looked at. We had requested -- when this bill -- I don't know if it was this bill, but there was a bill submitted -- and I want to say last session, that -- and we met with the Representative and just suggested that a study be done. The bill was changed and the study was never done. It needs to be looked at. I mean, we've tried our way of regionalizing and we get there -- at the last minute -- they won't sign the dotted line -

REP. ORANGE: Can you tell me who isn't receiving funding from the 911 surcharge?

ERNEST HERRICK: No, no. I can't. I can't, but if -- I can get that information.

REP. ORANGE: That would be good if you could get that information and I know that there are quite a few within the state that are already regionalized. And the problem I have is do they receive extra funding because they have already regionalized or is this just for new people coming down the block?

ERNEST HERRICK: Well, it's based on a criteria and, you know, I'd have to get that for you and tell you who is and isn't receiving funding.

REP. ORANGE: I would appreciate it. Thank you.

ERNEST HERRICK: Okay.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Senator.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Herrick for being here. For those people who were wondering where the bill came from, it's mine. So let's put that right on the record. It's my idea because 15 years ago, I believe we sat in a similar room with a lot of other people and then Representative Roraback, who's now in the Senate with me. And I mentioned to him that I was very frustrated that it's 15 years and we're not seeing the kind of voluntary participation in this -- that this bill provided. And it is not an unfunded mandate, which we are very cautious about up here. And so even though you see the word "mandate" in the title, it does come with money. Whether it's enough money, we don't know, but I thought this was a good way to wake

people up, bring them to the table and say, "It's been 15 years, it's time to sign on that dotted line," as you talked about.

And we are looking at ways to save municipalities money, and this is a money saver for municipalities. And I also understand that there are territorial issues as well. Other than a territorial issue, you had said something about when the towns will get to together and have this discussion, but they won't sign on the dotted line at the end. Can you tell us why?

ERNEST HERRICK: I think you hit the nail on the head. It's -- they don't want to give up the control. So it's a turf or a territorial issue. And I have to say in regards to that that the regional centers that I've been involved with, they're run by an executive board on a day to day basis. And those executive boards are made up of people from the towns that they dispatch. So they do have a say in what goes on there, but it's -- apparently, that's not getting across to these people, and they just don't want to sign because they don't want to give up their control. And I don't know how we get around that, but I just think there are ways and we can get around that. And that I think there are better ways to do it than this bill, but that's up to you people.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Well, and I appreciate that and I appreciate all the work that you've done all these years. But as I said, I wanted this raised by this committee by our deadline so that we could get some feedback and find out what the problem is, why people aren't stepping up. I certainly know there can be contractual problems because there could be some union issues. If it's territorial, you know, not

just "I don't want to share," but "I'm not sure that I can handle someone else's work load" -- I don't know what it is, but we have got to get people communicating with each other in a reasonable way.

And if it turns out that we're going to look at it in the interim and come back next year with a bill that people can agree upon, which is what we did 15 years ago then that's what we'll do, but we need the input from people and today's an opportunity to get that. And as we look at trying to save money -- I mean, here we have a perfect vehicle to save money that's been sitting there for so many years. And the tax payers and the communities are going to have to start to say to their boards and commissions, their first selectmen and their mayors, "We can't afford this anymore and here we have something that can help us manage the public safety issues."

Because nobody's -- I'm certainly not interested and I don't think anyone else is -- we're certainly not interested in not working with the public safety community. And we're certainly not interested in putting anyone in harm's way.

So we are a very small state. We shouldn't have so many public safety answering points. There's got to be a way around it. I feel like it's the same discussion I had 15 years ago. So I appreciate your input and I appreciate your willingness to come forward and make some suggestions and we'll see what happens from here.

ERNEST HERRICK: Well, if you need anything from myself or the commission, I think Representative Perillo we met with last year and we offered our assistance and we certainly

-- I'm offering that same assistance to you and if there's any research that needs to be done or studies, we'd be more than glad to get involved with that.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you, sir.

ERNEST HERRICK: Because I think there are ways we can work.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Further questions? Thank you very much, Ernie. Our next speaker is the First Selectmen from East Lyme, Paul Formica.

PAUL FORMICA: Good morning, Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan, members of the committee. I'd like to thank you on behalf of the town of East Lyme and COST for the opportunity to testify on Raised Bill 311, AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTABLES AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE RESIDENT TROOPER PROGRAM.

I have been working on this issue since May of 2009 when I received a revised contract from the Department of Public Safety regarding our two year renewal of the resident trooper program. I recognized that a conflict existed with the contract language and our local constables operating agreement. Since that time this and other issues have been discussed with many people including COST, other mayors and first selectmen, legislators including Senator Stillman, who I thank for her leadership on this issue, and Representative Jutila of this committee, upper management of the Department of Public Safety including Commissioner Danaher, members of the Attorney General's office, including Mr. Blumenthal.

WILLIAM CORNISH: Probably not. You know, I equate Autotote and playing the races as -- there's a couple of great restaurants in New London. One is my son's, Hot Rods and another is The Exchange. They have decks. People love to be outside, eat and drink outside, smoke outside. So it's like an added attraction. For me, this would be an added attraction.

SENATOR STILLMAN: I appreciate that and I appreciate your showing me your facility and how you're arranging everything. And certainly it looks like it will be a very nice restaurant uptown when it's completed. But thank you very much.

WILLIAM CORNISH: Okay. Could I just say something that somebody asked earlier about security and what do you do about people hanging out?

There'll be no people hanging out. This is going to be -- this is a legitimate restaurant. There's no restaurant in town that lets people hang out. And one of the other reputations I have is being a hard ass. I'm not going to let somebody just hang out at my restaurant whether the horses are there or not. Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Representative?

REP. HEWETT: I just want to concur with that last statement that Bill just made. He is -- there will be nobody hanging out.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Thank you very much. The next speaker is Chief Tony Salvatore.

SB 312 (HB5237)

JAMES STRILLACCI: Good afternoon, Senator, Representative, members of the committee. Jim Strillacci, police chief from West Hartford,

Tony Salvatore, Chief of Cromwell. We're speaking for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association on several bills.

First is number 312, MANDATING THE REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION CENTERS. We're worried about this one. As you know, we're not adverse to regionalization. The point you're saying with -- Senator, you know, we're on the (inaudible) southeast corner talking about doing -- this is their own initiative with police departments. And that's as it should be. Towns should be reaching out trying to work together and cooperate and save money. We're all under the same dire economic situations. We're all looking for savings. But what we found, even under current law -- and the current law says we collect money from phone bills, the surcharge. It goes into a fund. That 911 fund supports the equipment. We pay maintenance. We refurbish equipment as it wears out. We train our dispatchers to support emergency telecommunications, our 911 centers.

Plus, in that fund there's a transition grant available for those towns that wish to combine dispatch and regionalize. So a number of towns have looked at this. And we're all looking for that low hanging fruit where we're going to do a job more efficiently, cut some personnel, cut some overhead and maybe get a transition grant to help sweeten the deal.

The towns that have looked at this have ended up saying, "Wow. This is harder than it looks." What they've found is that there's a lot of startup costs involved to regionalize. There may be facilities they need to expand, improve upon or replace. Technology upgrades, the radios have to be combined in such a way that they talk to one another. Sometimes,

geography intervenes. There are topographical features, mountains, hills, shallow areas where the radio doesn't play, which may make it hard for taking a system that works for one town, combining it with another, and getting that job done without having to amp up to a much more powerful radio system, and a much more expensive radio system.

Many of the communities have found that some of the personnel costs that they thought would materialize were illusory, because in many of the small towns, a dispatcher does many jobs, many tasks. They not only handle emergency calls but routine calls. They may handle walk in traffic. Somebody comes in off the street with a problem, looking to make a report. They may handle records functions. They may monitor the prisoners. Officers arrest a drunk driver, books him or her, locks them up, goes out on the road and it's that dispatcher that's watching the camera to see if that prisoner is behaving, not hanging himself or not trying to escape or assault another prisoner. So if you do away with those dispatchers, who's going to do that? So not only would you have to combine dispatch, you'd have to combine booking and other functions.

REP. DARGAN: Chief, if you could summarize because your three minutes are up.

JAMES STRILLACCI: Sure. We understand that you've got to look for savings. We certainly urge you to look at things that are not critical, that are not emergency related rather than emergency dispatch. Towns are going to try and do this on their own. What this works out to for my town is we're going to be after the same job with $126,000 less, okay? So that's a big hit for us, and communities across the state are going to have difficulty with that.

ANTHONY SALVATORE: And we'd like to offer if there is to be a study, we'd certainly would like to offer our association be part of it and assist in looking at this.

The only thing I'd like to say regarding this matter is if I was to close my center -- and that's a decision my town would have to make -- my people are multitask people. They are the greeters, in some cases they are the complaint takers. They are the monitor of my prisoners, officer safety.

So it's a decision that my community would have to make to lose 911 and if we wanted to do a regionalized dispatching center, whether or not we want to go to a dark station, meaning after 4 o'clock, 5 o'clock, what have you, we lock the door, last officer out locks the door and if people go there, they're going to find a dark station. That may be acceptable, it may not be. But I think that's a decision that has to be made by the municipality.

And you have our testimony about several other bills, specifically the other bill we just like to mention is 5327, the investigation of missing persons, this is like the fourth time that we've spoken on this bill. Back in '07 you did pass a Public Act. I sat down with Representative Dargan on behalf of Post. We did come up with guidelines. (HB 5237)

I checked this morning with the executive director of the Police Officers Training Council. We did a survey during the summer. Eighty percent of the departments that got back to us regarding the survey are complying with the POST policy. So we really don't think this bill is needed.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Chief. Senator?

SB 312

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you both for being here. Chief Salvatore, you are the chief of Cromwell, correct? And according to the report I have you are currently one of 82 standalone police departments in the state. And in your comments you said that if you were to regionalize your dispatch, you'd have to make a decision if you'd go dark. Can you please explain -- I mean, I'm beginning to -- I hear these comments from -- and I'm not accusing you of anything, but -- I wouldn't dare accuse a police chief of anything, but I keep hearing -- it's almost like threats. "Well, if we do this then we can't do that" and et cetera, et cetera and so you're saying you'd have to go dark, which would mean if someone -- I assume it means that if someone were to come up to your police department, you would say, "Come back tomorrow at 7 A.M." or something? Is that what you're talking about? Could you please explain what you mean by going dark?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Yes, Senator. First of all this would not be my decision. This would be my municipality's decision if they were to do something such as this. Certainly, this would not be a police chief's decision.

By "dark" I mean, if -- not only 911, but all communication responsibilities was transferred to a super communications center, then therefore, the municipality would probably have to make the decision whether or not they wanted to have a greeter or a person that's assuming the other responsibilities that, in my department's case, do.

As I previously testified, my dispatcher is our greeters, meaning that people that come to the station meet with them first. My dispatchers

monitor officers in the building and when they're interviewing people or processing prisoners, officer safety. My dispatchers, as Chief Strillacci testified, do in fact monitor prisoners once we incarcerate somebody at our facilities until arraignment at court. So these are just some of the things that we would have to be able to address if we were to go dark. "Dark" means that there is nobody there -- 24/7, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I hope I -

SENATOR STILLMAN: So that means that because you have a dispatcher there now doing the greeting -- as you stated -- service -- multitasking, as you're saying -- is that dispatcher also checking on prisoners -

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR STILLMAN: -- on the -- in the back?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: No, my officers will come in occasionally or the shift supervisor makes -- video and audio monitoring is done by the dispatcher.

SENATOR STILLMAN: So is there -- there aren't any officers in your department during so called after hours? There isn't anyone in the station there?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: No, ma'am. They come and go.

SENATOR STILLMAN: How big a town is Cromwell?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: About 14, 15,000.

SENATOR STILLMAN: So it would mean -

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Presently, I have 26 sworn officers.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Twenty-six. So it could mean that you would have to have a shift of at least one officer in your department in case you had a prisoner. Especially so that someone could at least be there to monitor them. Because certainly I know some departments they don't have anyone out front. They have a video monitor in the back so they know if someone is there that they have to go out and find out what the problem is. So I mean, certainly, you can put a video monitor anywhere and anybody can look at it in terms of greeting someone.

But -- so you're saying that you'd have to have an officer there in case -- all the time or only when there's a prisoner or what?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Well, I'm not saying that number one, it has to be an officer there. It still could be a civilian greeter. Or we can go dark and after hours, we can make arrangements with a neighboring police department to hold prisoners, which may cause some additional concerns over cost. Meaning that now, my officer must now travel to whatever municipality to deposit the prisoner and then go pick up that prisoner for court on the next day or, after a weekend, on a Monday. There's a lot of options that can be considered that a municipality would have to consider if it was going to do combined dispatching.

In some cases, they're arguing in contracts, as previously mentioned by a previous speaker. But right now, I do not get subsidized support other than for training, equipment and technical support, which this bill would take away from me, my municipality. There are encouragements in subsidies. In testimony -- as Chief Strillacci alluded to in our testimony, right now there's a carrot out there

and if you -- with this bill it would take a stick -- so to speak and we go from an incentive to punitive.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Well, you know, sometimes that's what gets people's attention. So, that's why -- see, I've gotten everyone's attention.

But certainly, I think this is still an area where we can save municipalities money. Obviously, they have to talk to each other and come to an agreement as the previous speaker spoke -- Mr. Herrick. He said, you know, some of them will have discussions and at the last minute they get cold feet. Because there has to be a real commitment behind it. And I certainly think this is something we should continue to look at.

I do appreciate your input and for the sake of time I will stop there at the moment. But I appreciate your definition of going dark and some of the things that we keep hearing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. DARGAN: Representative Orange.

REP. ORANGE: Thank you. Good morning, Chief. Or good afternoon, Chief. Who dispatches your fire and EMS?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: In my town, we have a separate fire district. So they, so far, have not combined with the town of Cromwell. And in our town we have to transfer medical through an agreement to the fire dispatcher for the dispatching of fire service and medical service.

REP. ORANGE: So in essence, the town of Cromwell has two dispatchers, one for police, one for fire.

ANTHONY SALVATORE: That's correct.

JAMES STRILLACCI: In my town it's different. We have the same group of dispatchers who handle police, fire, EMS, receive the calls and send the calls out, so it is combined.

REP. ORANGE: So you're kind of like a little mini dispatch center for the whole town of West Hartford?

JAMES STRILLACCI: Yes.

REP. ORANGE: When I think of regional dispatch centers, I think of the ones that are out our way. There's one house at Troop F, there's one at Troop K. We have KXS1 over in Willimantic, WWQV and on and on. And they basically are run, we've all heard, by a board of directors and are staffed accordingly. And we make sure there's two dispatchers on per shift, which at one time there was only one dispatcher per shift or at night time anyway. And they actually dispatch for fire and police, multitown -- I mean, fire and EMS, multitown. And KX Dispatch also dispatches the East Hampton police. So when we're talking about regionalizing and everything I don't -- you know -- know -- I don't know -- there's many ways to approach it. Even if you took your police and put them together, you'd -- I won't go there, okay. It's not my business, other side of the river, see ya later, bye-bye now.

REP. DARGAN: Other questions? Further questions? Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO: I'm not going to go there either, Chief. In Cromwell, so if a firefighter is on a scene and the resident gets unruly and they need a police officer, what happens?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Well, we do have the capability, we do monitor their frequencies so they would make a request -

REP. PERILLO: Through their dispatch center?

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Through their dispatch center -

REP. PERILLO: Their dispatch center would call your dispatch center and your dispatch center would tell an officer to go and see the firefighter.

ANTHONY SALVATORE: That's correct.

REP. PERILLO: And if an officer were on scene and there was some sort of fire or emergency the exact same thing in the opposite direction.

ANTHONY SALVATORE: But if I may point out, this bill does not address that type of situation. This bill would effect the town of Cromwell receiving subsidy for 911, meaning technical support, training and equipment. It's not going to address -- I'd love to get back to addressing, which I don't want to comment on, that situation that you're describing, but it's not going to help us.

REP. PERILLO: Okay, I'll take a different one. I live about a stone's throw from the town next door. And if my neighbor's house caught on fire and my Shelton Fire Department showed up and realized that it was a really bad fire and they need more firefighters, they would call their dispatch center. Their dispatch center would call the town next door's dispatch center and send their fire fighters over.

ANTHONY SALVATORE: That's correct.

REP. PERILLO: They wouldn't just be able to call

one person and -- one dispatch center and have that dispatch center just get them the resources.

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Well, that's correct, but that's -- I -- absolutely under NIMS, the National Incident Management System, you don't want multiple departments or assistance showing up without being requested.

REP. PERILLO: Oh, no, no, I know that. I'm saying "upon request."

ANTHONY SALVATORE: Well, it would be no different than a police department needing additional assistance so if my people needed assistance, if they had a bar fight or some type of situation that needed additional officers, they would call our dispatcher and our dispatcher would have to contact whatever jurisdiction we were calling for assistance.

REP. PERILLO: Okay, that's what I thought.

JAMES STRILLACCI: Frankly, that's not much different than if you needed additional assistance from within Shelton. A fire unit doesn't self dispatch. They tend to send a unit, they evaluate the situation, they call for more help and send it. So it doesn't really matter whether it's across town lines or within town lines. You don't self dispatch.

REP. PERILLO: I know you don't self dispatch and I'm not suggesting that you do. But, in fairness, I don't think it's safe to say that it's not that much different across town lines.

Let's be honest, we've been in this for awhile here. And you know that things are very different across town lines in terms of getting resources and finding help, at least that's

been my experience. You know, we have 169 cities and towns, we have -- and we have many different dispatch centers and we like to think that every town is slightly nuanced and a little bit different and a little bit special.

And we are special in our own special little way, but we're not all that nuanced. It's tough to make that rationalization when we know that in other states in this country there are entire county systems that do dispatch for that county and in many cases those counties are larger than the state of Connecticut. So it's tough to sort of -- and I understand some of the challenges that you gentlemen have presented. And they are challenges, absolutely. But it's tough to -

JAMES STRILLACCI: There are places which are more susceptible to unification than others. There are places that are probably readier for it, that could assume responsibility for their neighboring towns quicker than others. We'd certainly agree to that.

REP. PERILLO: Fair enough, thanks.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Hearing none, thank you very much, Chief and Chief. Next speaker is Richard Michaels.

RICHARD MICHAELS: Good afternoon, Madam Chairman, members of the committee. I'm Richard Michaels, president of Michaels Jewelers, also a board member of the Connecticut Jewelers Association. I'm here to express my opposition of Bill 5342.

I have to start though, with the statement of the purpose on page six. In essence, quote, "requiring pawnbrokers and precious metals and stone dealers to take photos and retain jewelry

bill. We have worked with Jan Smolinski and supported her along the way.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you very much. Anyone have any questions for Michelle? Thank you, appreciate it. Next is Marie Lausch. I hope I haven't mispronounced your name too badly. To be followed by Jeff Morrissette.

MARIE LAUSCH: Thank you, Madam Chair, you're one of the few people that ever pronounces it correctly as a matter of fact.

My name is Marie Lausch. I'm a 911 dispatcher for the city of New Briton for the last 18 years. I'm also the President of Union Local 222, we're a group of municipal and board of ed workers in the state of Connecticut, over 2,000 of us, including hundreds of 911 dispatchers. So I come to speak to you today in opposition of Raised Bill 312 as it stands.

I'm not against regionalization. I think it's great for sharing a stump grinder or a swimming pool, but I think the forced wholesale regionalization of emergency services jeopardizes the public safety. While there are some existing regionalized services, I believe we need to take a look at the downside of 911 regionalization.

I begin by asking this esteemed panel a simple question. What would be the total statewide cost of this plan? I understand it's a shared cost, but my 47 cents from my phone bill going into a fund to pay for equipment and training, et cetera -- which I don't think in any way, shape or form is going to cover the mass expense of retooling, if you will, some old systems in some municipal police departments to come up to standard for the equipment, for the towers and technology, system redundancies,

we're asking the municipalities and towns to shoulder the burden, too, the burden of providing a place for this, employment. What if a town can't afford to have to pay in their share for a new regionalization place of business?

You know, I drive a little 2000 Ford Mustang. It's kind of fun, a little zippy car. I'd probably save a lot of gas if I could buy a brand new BMW. Especially on a dispatcher's pay, I can't afford one, and I think that's where the citizens of the state of Connecticut are now. Trying to implement this bill by 2013 is putting a big cost burden on the tax payers. We can't afford the BMW right now. Hopefully in the future when things turn around a little, it'll be a more logical plan.

I'm also concerned that taking away control from towns that are serviced, particularly large urban areas, eradicates local control and accountability. How are you going to bill the towns? According to the amount of people there, according to the amount of 911 calls made? Would all 911 dispatchers be terminated and rehired by regional districts? Who has seniority? Which operating systems are you going to use? There's a lot of questions to be answered.

But most of all today, I come to you because I want to make the case of dollars versus people, the human quotient for the citizens of Connecticut. when a lost child calls crying and says, "I can see a blue building," I know where he is in my town. When a two year old is lost and the parents from out of town call, crying, give me landmarks, I know where to send the ambulance. When an 86 year old lady runs out of gas or oil on a Saturday, I know who to send and who will come with the hot cocoa and a

space heater. I know just the guy to send out -- when the medics are bringing a man in full cardiac arrest in on an icy weekend -- to go sand the sidewalks to get the citizen out.

I am committed to my job. I love my town as do many of my dispatchers that I'm representing today and the people in it.. I'm the first first responder you talk to when you have a problem. My firefighters, my medics, my police are my family because we are. I want you to take a better look at this. Talk to the people who use the system. And don't put people's lives in danger for the saving of a dollar. Please do not Walmartize the emergency services of Connecticut. Our citizens deserve better.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you for your comments. I don't think that there's anything that this committee does or anybody in this legislature that wants to put anybody at risk so I am somewhat offended by that remark, but I understand your passion that you are sharing with us. Can you tell me what is the population of New Briton?

MARIE LAUSCH: Approximately 70,000.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Seventy thousand. So probably under the current bill you wouldn't have to regionalize anyway.

MARIE LAUSCH: But I understand there was some discussion about regionalizing with Plainville and it scared the beejeebers out of them and we have a very high call volume and a very high crime rate.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Well, I think under the current bill, you wouldn't fall into the category of regionalization anyway so. Anyone have any questions? Thank you very much.

MARIE LAUSCH: And I would like to say, it was not meant to be offensive, but I do want you to take a look at some of the issues that we're presenting, that we're presenting as dispatchers, too. It's very important to us.

SENATOR STILLMAN: As it is to everyone. And we truly do appreciate your comments.

MARIE LAUSCH: Thank you. Next is Jeff Morrissette, to be followed by Matthew Erff.

JEFFREY MORRISSETTE: Good afternoon, Senator Stillman, and Representatives on the Public Safety and Security Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you. I am Jeff Morrissette. I'm the state fire administrator and agency head for the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and I'm here today to speak in support of Raised Bill 195, which is AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS.

As many of you may be aware, the responsibility to disburse funds to the independent regional fire schools was transferred from the controller's miscellaneous accounts to the commission back in fiscal year 2007. when this change had occurred, the statutory language within General Statutes section 3-12E was not revised to reflect that practice. Therefore, the revisions proposed within sections one through five of the proposed act clearly account for the change in current practice, and address some long standing need in terms of housekeeping of language within the realm of statutes.

In general, this proposal will also allow for any future designation of regional fire schools to undergo a comprehensive evaluation by the

anything that you're proposing. It's just your -- you're trying to enlighten the committee about the issue.

JEFFREY MORRISSETTE: Correct.

REP. JUTILA: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you, Representative. Any other questions? Thank you, sir, very much. We appreciate your input. Matthew Erff to followed by the Smolinskis, if they'd like to come up together, that'd be great. Thank you.

MATTHEW ERFF: Let me start with -- before I say anything, it's not meant to be personal against anybody. SB 312

(Inaudible).

MATTHEW ERFF: Exactly. I'm the dispatcher for the town of Hamden and I've been a dispatcher for 14 years. And in answer to the question beforehand, we have a population of about 60,000 people.

In our dispatch center where we have four people -- or four dispatch stations, we average approximately 53,000 calls a year for our little town that borders New Haven. By cutting some of the funding by doing this regionalization, you cut funding -- it's providing for training, it's providing for equipment maintenance, it's providing for upgrades to new technology, which I already know that there's the next gen 911 that's coming out in certain states, it does texting and everything else.

We also have to worry about our people who are -- who have contracts. According to this, just reading the bill, there's no plan for how to

keep our people who are already hired, who are already trained by the state and put in a lot of time and effort, how they're going to keep employed. Are they going to be laid off and have to take a test, et cetera? You also have to look at the fact that in our little center -- I've been there a few times now, where we've swamped out every single 911 call that we have. We have six 911 trunk lines and about 14 outside lines. And if we get a major incident we end up having every single phone line in the center lit up at one time with four people trying to answer it.

If you go to a regionalization plan and you have a center that's taking care of a large population, you've just wiped out their 911 center for incidents, for anybody trying to call.

Also if you have a major police incident, a major fire incident, you're tying up personnel to monitor those incidents if -- as you brought up before, Representative Perillo, if somebody's calling for assistance from a fire service and you have to get a hold of somebody else. You have somebody who's usually dedicated to that to get that help.

If you're in a regional center and -- for instance, Shelton and Derby, I used to be a member of their volunteers -- you have a fire in Derby and you have a fire in Shelton. Now you have two people who are tied up monitoring those. You have a regionalization so you're monitoring Orange or somewhere else and something happens, there's a major police incident, they have a shooting and a chase. Now you've just eliminated your personnel who are functioning in that area. You've just exposed a large amount of population to not getting proper service because we may not be

able to handle the calls in a timely fashion of answering them before we get it, before they hang up.

Plus the fact -- like Marie brought up -- people don't know where they are. And the cell phone systems that we have now are not accurate. We don't always know where people are. People who are local to the area can go by landmarks and find somebody. The Route 10 in Hamden's about - oh -- nine miles long, we have six Dunkin Donuts. We have a college with a lot of out of state people. I'm in an accident in front of Dunkin Donuts. You've got to tell me whereabouts on Route 10 you are, you give me some landmarks I can determine where they are. You have somebody who's sitting three towns away, they may not be familiar at all with Hamden or whatever other town and now you're wasting valuable time trying to assist them, where if you have a crime in progress you're going to lose information and time. And if you have a medical, that can cost somebody their life as well, having time to try and find out where they are if you're not familiar with them.

I'm just asking you to please reject the bill. As it's written right now, it's not safe. I'm not against regionalization, but it has to be done correctly and this, unfortunately, is not it.

SENATOR STILLMAN: Thank you. But it served its purpose, it got everyone's attention. Questions from anyone? We certainly do appreciate the work you do and certainly appreciate your input. And we know all of you work very hard to protect the public. And we do appreciate that and we'll see what happens, but you know, this is a public hearing on a very important public issue. Thank you very

much. Well said. Thank you, sir.

The Smolinskis, if they would like to come up together? Okay, that's fine. And they'll be followed by Peter Holmren, if I read his name correctly.

LINDA SMOLINSKI: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm here to support H.B. 5237.

My nephew, Billy Smolinski, has been missing from Waterbury since August 24th, 2004. And I want to begin to tell you that my nephew was an amazing and special person who ended up in the company of wrong and the worst people. What our family has gone through is almost the worst that you or anyone can imagine. Wondering where Billy is, hoping that when remains are found that they're not his. The only thing worse is the terrible thought of not knowing what actually happened to him. We wish he could be here with us, laughing, smiling, joking as he usually does, but unfortunately, this is no longer possible.

When Billy went missing, my family turned to law enforcement for guidance and support and how or where to begin to start looking for my nephew. No help was received. If you can't depend on your law enforcement to help find your missing loved one, who can you turn to in Connecticut for help? It was very unfortunate for Billy at this point because time was of the essence as we frantically searched for days on our own with family and friends.

We should be treating missing adults unsolved cases as a tragedy. These are lives lost just like the lives lost on 9/11 and in Haiti, to name a few examples. August 24th will mark the sixth year that Billy has been missing. My family and I still have hope that one day we

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Jay. Any questions from committee members? Thank you very much for your testimony. Next speaker is Jeffrey Otto.

SB 312

JEFFREY OTTO: Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo and other members of the Public Safety committee, my name is Jeffrey Otto, I'm president of Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications, one of Connecticut's seven regional 911 communications centers.

I'm testifying today on behalf of RECCA, the Regional Emergency Communication Centers of Connecticut. RECCA members provide E-911 call receipt and dispatch services for 81 towns and boroughs or forty-five and a half percent of Connecticut's towns.

Many of our members have been in existence for over 35 years and the continuation of their successful operations provides prima facie evidence that regionalization serves as both an effective and economical means of providing these critical services. This is especially the case with small towns that do not generate sufficient emergency traffic volume to warrant a dedicated dispatch center. But it also highlights for the larger municipalities the beneficial effect of economies of scale that spread fixed costs over a larger tax payer base than would be the case with a smaller, dedicated dispatch center.

Fixed costs include operational and labor costs, but also encompasses capital equipment costs required to provide radio and other expensive electronic systems that are shared among the cooperating municipalities in regional centers. Although some of our centers provide service exclusively to fire and emergency medical responders, many operate centers that serve local police departments

highly effectively.

Often, small police departments or employees in fire and ambulance service threatened by consolidation will assert that consolidated or civilian centers cannot provide effective emergency communication services. We believe that nothing could be further from the truth. There are exceptional centers in Connecticut that refute such arguments.

There's no question that regional emergency communication centers save tax payers money and that RECCA strongly advocates this approach to providing emergency communication services. But it's also important to recognize that regional centers, subsidized dispatch centers in cities of greater than 40,000 population, multi-town dispatch centers serving two municipalities, equipment replacement, investments in critical technologies -- that no individual 911 center could afford on their own and -- excuse me -- other important services overseen by OSET, are made possible because of Connecticut's unique blend of local funding and incentives provided by the state.

When the legislature passed Public Act 95-318, it recognized that an integrated system of statutes, regulations, financial incentives and an off budget revenue source would be necessary to create one of the leading E-911 systems in the nation. The revenues that fund all facets of the operation of Connecticut's 911 system flow from monthly charges on telephone instruments, including cellular telephones.

Since the beginning, only that portion of the 50 cent monthly surcharge maximum has been -- as has been necessary each year to fund the operation of the system has been utilized. But during the upcoming year, the budget necessary

to fund the system as it is, unmodified by Raised Bill 512, will completely consume the 50 cent surcharge. Thus, adoption of the current proposal without a necessary increase in the surcharge to fund the considerable and not completely predictable costs for regional subsidies authorized by the bill will completely disrupt the funding of the current system.

Up to now, in parts of our state, the considerable savings that would have accrued to municipalities and the net savings that would benefit tax payers after counting for incentives have not been sufficient to establish regional centers.

In some cases, a lack of knowledge of the law or an unwillingness to share control may be at the base of the problem. Perhaps the current economic difficulties will shed new light on the possibilities.

Whether the Public Safety Committee wishes to compel municipalities to regionalize or whether Connecticut's highly successful model of incentivizing regionalization is selected or enhanced, we urge the committee to first address the lack of availability of funds to accomplish this objective. Other states maximum surcharge has gone as high as $3.00 a month. Nearby states have a maximum allowable monthly charge of a dollar to $1.26 a month. We believe it's a critical responsibility of the legislature to assure that the ability of our state to respond to the emergency needs of its citizens not be hampered by an overly conservative surcharge ceiling.

Connecticut has demonstrated that its office of statewide emergency telecommunications can both conservatively manage its budget and also

create one of the most effective state wide 911 systems in the nation. We urge the legislature to withdraw the current proposal and bend its immediate efforts to raising the surcharge maximum to a dollar per instrument per month.

In the past, when complex changes in the 911 system and its incentives for improved or altered service were deemed necessary by the legislature, a task force has been created and has been charged with the responsibility of recommending changes to the Public Safety Committee. We would like to suggest to the Committee that this approach be considered again.

On behalf of the dedicated volunteers and employees of REECA members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter and would be happy to make further comments or answer questions either now or in the future.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much for your comments. Any questions from any committee members? RP Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: Otto, thanks for coming to testify. It seems by your remarks that you've already concluded that regionalization isn't going to work for a myriad of issues.

So if we were to form a task force, what would you really achieve? We form task forces up here all the time on regionalization and usually what it is is for towns to come up and tell you why they can't do something. And yet, Connecticut is tiny when compared to other states that have regionalized forms of government where there's actually more efficiency. Not all of them, but a larger number. So try to convince me what the end

result would be with the task force and would you be really willing to find a solution or would it be just a -- with all due respect, a stall tactic just to make it not happen?

JEFFREY OTTO: I'm not sure, Representative Caruso, what I said or how I said it that led you to conclude that I don't support regionalization. I, in fact, operate the 11th largest dispatch center in the state. It's a regional center. I'm here as a representative of all the regional centers, we favor regionalization, but we favor it to be done when there's adequate funding to support new regional centers. Those new regional centers are entitled under current statute to additional funding, but there's no money there to fund them. So we think you need to address the funding issue and then regionalization.

As to the task force, I think what needs to be done is to get all of the players involved and figure out how this can be moved forward. For example, the current statutes provide specifically for payments to the very largest cities in Connecticut to subsidize their dispatch operations. Without any additional money to be made available, those large cities would have reduced funding. I'm pretty sure that politically they wouldn't stand for that and it could up end destroying the whole effort to regionalize.

So fundamentally, we support regionalization, we think it saves tax payers money, but we think it has to be done in a somewhat more orderly way than just mandating that people get involved with the regions.

REP. CARUSO: I don't think there's been one proposal to date in the legislature, at least in the last two years with the budget

situation, that there hasn't been some proposal with a financial incentive deal.

There was one that came out of the Finance Committee with 50 million dollars from sales tax that we set aside in order to help fund regions. There's a new proposal now by the Borg Committee to increase the tax on hotels to generate additional funds for regional efforts.

So again, I hear you and I don't think the legislature is suggesting that there be a regional approach without that support. So my question is -- my only concern -- when I hear "task force" is it's carrying these things out to a point where they usually never take place. That's been my experience with regionalism from up here. And I don't blame you folks individually as towns because frankly, back in the fifties when we created 169 towns, that was a huge mistake because we've allowed autonomy for each individual town and I understand now it's difficult to kind of put the genie back in the bottle somewhat, so.

JEFFREY OTTO: I can't speak to hotel taxes or other efforts to regionalize other services. But with respect to 911 services in Connecticut, each time the regulations have changed, this committee has appointed a task force. And that task force, representing all of the services or facets involved, have come up with recommendation which this committee has subsequently adopted so although some other efforts may not have been successful, I'm pretty sure -- I think we have a good track record in 911 regulations and statutes of having recommendations that the Public Safety Committee has seen fit to adopt.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Further questions from any committee members? Thank you very much for

REP. CARUSO: What I'm wondering is if there's a way that you separate that out, that if you're a precious metal license it falls under a different criteria than would be a pawn shop with a precious metals license.

TIMOTHY PHELAN: Ah, it's almost creating another category.

REP. CARUSO: Yeah.

TIMOTHY PHELAN: A category that you're A, B or A and B.

REP. CARUSO: Right. And if you're a precious metal license and you don't report that you're a pawn shop, that would be a violation so that you have clear distinctions in the law.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Thank you very much, Tim, for your testimony.

TIMOTHY PHELAN: Okay. Thank you again. I appreciate your time.

REP. DARGAN: Is there anybody else that would like to testify before the Public Safety and Security Committee that has not signed up -- or. For the second time, is there anyone that would like to testify before the committee? For the third and last time? We have one more speaker.

SB 312

PAUL JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Paul Jacobson. I'm a retired chief of police from the town of Madison. I spent 35 years in law enforcement. I also was a member of the 911 commission and I was in charge of the computerization issues dealing with the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

I've listened to the testimony today regarding

the proposed Bill 312 and I'm involved in this in the private sector now regarding the regionalization of some towns in the Fairfield County area. So I was very much interested in this. It boils down to -- from my observations, that the bill as proposed needs to be relooked at again.

The centers if they're going to exist have to depend on some form of subsidy, not from the transformation. There's sufficient funds from what I see.

In the current legislation, each town can receive up to a quarter million dollars if they are engaging in this regionalization effort. It's the sustainability after this regionalization has been created and the current formula probably translates to about a ten to twelve percent cost of the operation. That's something that needs to be looked at. There are other areas that also need to be considered, but that's something to be addressed during the formulation of these regionalized centers.

I just wanted to make my comments known. I'd be more than happy to answer any questions that you might have.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: Just one question. So if the legislature enacted a law that said we would regionalize these services and within, let's say, six months to a year, those communities need to come together and devise a plan on how to do that, would that be a problem?

PAUL JACOBSON: Putting a timetable on that -- in that short span of time, no. Would it be a problem? No. It needs to be done. People

have to be able to cooperate in order to make this to be successful.

REP. CARUSO: Sure.

PAUL JACOBSON: Putting it on a short term time frame, I'm not so sure that that would work because as you have pointed out succinctly, 169 towns, to try to get them all to cooperate, especially when you're dealing with mainly fire, police and the EMS services, there's a lot of issues that need to come to the table; protocols, types of equipment that they operate on, just to name a few. I mean, the gentlemen that are representatives of the regional centers can answer those questions far better than I can.

REP. CARUSO: I think part of the problem is time we don't have. You know, it's been said here and you've probably heard it publicly that -- not so much 2011, but 2012, 2013, the state's looking at roughly a three billion dollar deficit in each year. So time, unfortunately, isn't on our side. And what actually could happen is that you could see major cuts in municipal aid. You could see the state of Connecticut saying, "We're going to lop off a hundred million dollars to municipal aid." And then the towns are going to have to scurry around trying to figure out how to make that up.

Now, that may seem far fetched to people, but that's the severity of what's being talked about in this building. So the whole approach of regionalism is to begin to look at ways to save money and how to work efficiently within a town to town structure.

So what I'm saying to you is is there is a bill passed that says, "Okay, these services will be

regionalized," but gives the town a year time period to do that, then frankly that's -- maybe the only time you have to do that, as difficult as it may seem.

But I also believe that human beings create things and human beings can change things. I know that's difficult because we're all human and many times we don't want to change something that's possibly working well. But again, I just have to caution because I hear it all the time and from many colleagues that we're looking at a six billion dollar budget deficit. And frankly, unless we're willing to increase taxes, unless we're willing to do more borrowing, unless we're looking at other revenue streams, there's few pots of money you can take from. One is municipal aid. So when the legislature says they're cutting out a hundred million of it, towns are going to have to scurry to find the difference.

PAUL JACOBSON: Well, there's also a significant expenditure that's going to occur from the state when they replace the 911 -- the present 911 system, so obviously, they're looking for a means to reduce that expenditure. I'm in favor of regionalization. I just think that the present language of the law needs to be addressed that makes it -- the transition incentivized, but also makes it popular so that you can put these various actions together and make them work right.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Hearing none, thank you very much for your testimony. Is there anybody else that would like to testify before the Committee. Hearing none, this Public Safety Committee and Security Committee will come to a close at this time and have a pleasant day.

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Sen. Stillman, Rep. Dargan, Senators Daily and Guglielmo, Representatives Jutila and Perillo and other members of the Public Safety and Security Committee: SB 312

My name is Jeffrey Otto. I am President of Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications, one of Connecticut's seven Regional 911 Communications Centers. I am testifying today on behalf of RECCA, the Regional Emergency Communications Centers Association of Connecticut.

As is the case for 911 dispatchers throughout the state and country, RECCA dispatchers are the first to contact citizens in their jurisdictions who report or suffer from the effects of emergencies. They are an integral part of the response system we have put in place in Connecticut. We are proud of their dedication to serve the public during times of great stress and are wary of organizational or funding changes that might undermine their effectiveness.

RECCA members provide E-911 call receipt and dispatch services for 81 Towns and Boroughs or 45.5% of Connecticut's towns. Many of our members have been in existence for over thirty-five years and the continuation of their successful operations provides prima facie evidence that regionalization serves as both an effective and economical means of providing these critical services. This is especially the case for small towns that do not generate sufficient emergency traffic volume to warrant a dedicated dispatch center. But it also highlights for larger municipalities the beneficial effect of economies of scale that spread fixed costs over a larger taxpayer base than would be the case with a smaller dedicated dispatch center. Fixed cost includes operational and labor costs but also encompasses capital equipment costs required to provide radio and other expensive electronic systems that are shared among the cooperating municipalities in regional centers.

Although some of our centers provide service exclusively to fire and emergency medical services responders, many operate centers that serve local police departments highly effectively. Often small police departments or employees in fire or ambulance dispatch centers threatened by consolidation will assert that consolidated or "civilian" centers cannot provide effective emergency communications services. We believe that nothing could be further from the truth. There are many exceptional centers in Connecticut that refute such arguments.

There is no question that Regional Emergency Communications Centers save taxpayers money and that RECCA strongly advocates this approach to providing emergency communications services. But it is also important to recognize that Regional Centers, subsidized dispatch centers in cities of greater than 40,000 population, multi-town dispatch centers serving two municipalities, equipment replacement, investments in critical new technologies that no individual 911 center could afford on their own and other important services overseen by OSET are made possible because of Connecticut's unique blend of local funding and incentives provided by the State. When the Legislature passed P.A. 95-318 it recognized that an integrated system of statutes, regulations, financial incentives and an off-budget revenue source would be necessary to create one of the leading E-911 systems in the nation.

The revenues that fund all facets of the operation of Connecticut's 911 system flow from monthly charges on telephone instruments, including cellular telephones, in our state. Since the beginning only that portion of the $0.50 monthly surcharge maximum as has been necessary each year to fund the operation of the system has been utilized. But this year the budget necessary to fund the system as it is, unmodified by Raised Bill 312, will completely consume the $0.50 surcharge. Thus adoption of the current proposal, without a necessary increase in the surcharge to fund the considerable and not completely predictable costs for regional subsidies and consolidation studies authorized by the Raised Bill will completely disrupt the funding of the current system. Moreover the proposed Bill provides insufficient guidance as to how the shortfall in funding should be addressed.

Up to now, in some parts of our state, the considerable savings that would accrue to municipalities, and the net savings that would benefit taxpayers after accounting for incentives provided by current law, have not been sufficient to establish regional centers. In some cases a lack of knowledge of the law or an unwillingness to share

control may be at the base of this problem. Perhaps the current economic difficulties will shed new light on the possibilities. Whether the Public Safety Committee wishes to compel municipalities to regionalize, or whether Connecticut's highly successful model of incentivizing regionalization is selected or enhanced, we urge the Committee to first address the lack of availability of funds to accomplish this objective.

Other state's maximum surcharges run as high as $3.00/month. Nearby states have a maximum monthly allowable of $1.00 to $1.26 . We believe that it is a crucial responsibility of the legislature to assure that the ability of our state to respond to the emergency needs of its citizens not be hampered by an overly conservative surcharge ceiling. Connecticut has demonstrated that its Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications can both conservatively manage its budget and also create one of the most effective statewide 911 systems in the nation. We urge the legislature to withdraw the current proposal and bend its immediate efforts to raising the surcharge maximum to $1.00 per instrument per month.

In the past, when complex changes in the 911 system and its incentives for improved or altered service were deemed necessary by the legislature, a task force has been created and has been charged with the responsibility of recommending changes to the Public Safety Committee. We would like to suggest to the Committee that this approach be considered again.

On behalf of the dedicated volunteers and employees of RECCA members, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter and would be happy to make further comments or answer questions either now or in the future.

Jeffrey B. Otto

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jotto@snet.net

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
March 4, 2010

Leonard H. Guercia, Chief Operating Officer, DPH (860)509-8100

Senate Bill 312 - An Act Mandating the Regionalization of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunication Centers

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The Department of Public Health **supports** Senate Bill 312.

Connecticut has a significant number of emergency telecommunication centers that manage a low call volume with limited staff. Maintaining these small centers is both costly and inefficient. Additionally, due to the limited number of emergency calls, telecommunicators do not necessarily achieve a consistent high level of proficiency with their call management. Combining resources between centers will improve efficiencies and reduce costs. These larger, regionalized centers will also potentially have the resources to increase training opportunities for staff and improve the quality of the service provided.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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(HB 5237)
HB 5341
HB 5344

Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety, March 4, 2010

Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Good Morning. We are here representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), to testify on a number of Bills.

We, our member chiefs, and our towns are dismayed and alarmed by **SB# 312, AA Mandating The Regionalization Of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunication Centers.** Current law authorizes a surcharge on phone bills to subsidize maintenance and replacement of 911 terminal equipment, and training and technical assistance to emergency service providers. Current law also offers transition grants to encourage regionalization of dispatch service. The bill would replace the carrot with a stick; it would provide a subsidy ONLY to those towns combining dispatch with at least two others.

This is tantamount to revocation of the subsidy, because regionalizing dispatch is harder than it sounds. Budget-strapped towns have studied it, tempted by the transition grant and hopes of personnel savings; none has succeeded. They found that

- Prohibitive start-up costs were required for facility, radio, or technology upgrades.
- Topographical features made expanded radio coverage exorbitant.
- Personnel savings would not materialize in small towns where dispatchers perform other functions—handle walk-in customers, monitor prisoners, handle records, etc.
- Elimination of such dispatchers would convert places of refuge into darkened, locked buildings.
- Differences in union contracts, service levels, and expectations had to be resolved.
- Assessing fair share of the cost was difficult.

In this economy, we understand that the state must look for savings. It's prudent to start with discretionary, low-priority services. It's foolish to start with emergency dispatch.

Kiner, David

From: modishoo@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 12:00 AM
To: Kiner, David
Subject: Raised Bill 312 Public Hearing Statement

As Emergency Management Director and Deputy Fire Marshal for the Town of Berlin I have some concerns regarding this Raised Bill 312 Proposal. First although I agree that regionalization of public safety emergency telecommunication centers is a viable option for some communities, the across the board requirement for all communities is not a feasible option. Having a local dispatch center allows for having dispatchers on duty that have a complete understanding of the town's operating procedures, resources and contacts. Having dispatchers on duty with this information used on a daily basis provides for a more accurate and timely response to not only routine matters but more importantly emergency situations.

Secondly, the town's dispatch center also handles a large amount of routine calls and is also the first point of contact for walk-ins to the police department. The dispatchers also provide communication and emergency calls for several town departments including Public Works, Public Grounds and Animal Control. If regionalization is forced onto the town the management of these issues will become a problem which must either be handled by the regional dispatch or require the hiring of personnel by the Town to handle these issues. Where is the cost savings now?

In conclusion, the use of Regionalized dispatch has its advantages for some communities; however, the requirement for all communities to fall under the regionalized dispatch requirement can actually lead to reduced efficiency in the handling of both emergency and routine calls and may even lead to additional monetary obligations to some communities.

Respectively Submitted,

Matthew C Odishoo

CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 4, 2010

Senator Andrea Stillman, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee

Representative Stephan Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee

Subject: **SENATE BILL #312**

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association (CSFA) wishes to go on record as having some concerns with the concept provided by **Raised Senate Bill #312, AN ACT MANDATING THE REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION CENTERS.** Our Association represents approximately 27,000 career and volunteer firefighters in the State of Connecticut.

I must mention at the beginning that our Association is not new to regionalization. The CSFA continues to be very much involved in Connecticut's Regional Fire Training Schools. Before the advent of the Office of State-wide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) and the E-911 emergency telecommunications system in Connecticut, the CSFA was very much involved with the original seven Regional Dispatch Centers. Funding for both the regional fire schools and the dispatch centers were administered through our Association. Also, the Fire Service has been using both oral and written mutual-aid agreements, a form of regionalization, for many decades. We encourage the concept.

However, this bill has generated interest from all aspects of our membership and their comments are from "HOORAY" to "OH NO". Along with almost all of these comments comes the statement, "But what about....." In other words, there are many concerns on all sides of the issue. They range from: The word MANDATE opens the door to WHO will pay for the infrastructure changes?; will they be increasing the 911 surcharge; what happens to the 911 surcharge funds that are collected from a municipality that does not regionalize?; will they exempt PSAPs that answer at least a certain number of calls on their own?; only three years?; there is currently funding to incentivize consolidation, but is there enough?

We are sure that the initiator of S.B. #312 has given these issues some thought. We would request allowing for any further questions that could arise from municipal dispatch centers. We would not suggest that any of these items cannot be overcome. We would only inquire if three years is enough time to address them.

Regardless of their choices, we would hope that no municipality would be denied any of the benefits of the E-911 Telecommunications Fund. There has to be better ways to encourage consolidation other than denial of these benefits. This could lead to a breakdown of Connecticut's very successful E-911 system as it exists today.

THE CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT WILL BE THE LOSERS

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Post Office Box 9 • Mansfield Center, Connecticut 06250 • Telephone: (860) 423-5799

Testimony
Bart Russell
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)
Before the Public Safety Committee
March 4, 2010

RE: SB-312 AN ACT MANDATING REGIONALIZED PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) ***opposes*** **SB-312,** which effectively mandates regionalized public safety answering points by eliminating funding for municipal public safety answering points in 2013.

Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are the facilities operated on a twenty-four hour basis to receive 9-1-1 calls and dispatch emergency response services or transferring or relaying 9-1-1 calls to other public safety agencies. The PSAP is the first point of reception of a 9-1-1 call.

Under current law, Connecticut's municipalities are responsible for ensuring that their residents have 9-1-1 service. Most municipalities in Connecticut operate their own PSAP, which are housed in police departments, fire departments or emergency communications centers. Larger municipalities receive an annual subsidy to offset the cost of PSAP operations. In addition, the current law authorizes subsidies for Regional Emergency Communications Centers (RECCs), which may be formed by 3 or more towns to provide 9-1-1 services.

The current system, which allows towns to determine how to best manage their public safety calls and provides them with some incentives to regionalize services, strikes an appropriate balance. SB-312, however, eliminates this balance by mandating regionalism and eliminating the ability of towns to determine which public safety answering point system would work best for their communities. Some towns may want to participate in regional programs but should not be forced to regionalize if they believe that it will undermine public safety or increase costs for their community.

In a recent presentation before the M.O.R.E. Commission, Economist Steve Lanza concluded that regionalizing municipal services is no silver bullet for achieving cost savings. We therefore urge rejection of SB-312 and, instead, recommend that the committee do a thorough cost-benefit analysis of this proposal, as called for in last year's bill, which did not pass.

Connecticut Council of Small Towns
1245 Farmington Avenue, 101 West Hartford, CT 06107
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Connecticut General Assembly

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE DEBRALEE HOVEY
ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER
EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

State Representative DebraLee Hovey
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security
Public Hearing Testimony
Thursday, March 4, 2010

Dear Senator Stillman, Senator Guglielmo, Senator Daily, Representative Dargan, Representative Perillo, Representative Jutila, and Public Safety and Security Committee Membership:

I want to thank the Public Safety and Security Committee for hosting this public hearing on SB 312, An Act Mandating the Regionalization of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunication Centers. This bill has a number of aspects to it that would be beneficial to our communities and to the safety of those who utilize emergency services.

From an economics standpoint, this legislation would significantly increase the efficiency of our resources and it would save a considerable amount of money for the municipalities. Similar measures have been adopted in other states and the results have been encouraging. Response times are significantly decreased and there is better access for emergency response crews to disaster recovery sites.

Currently, Monroe is working with Trumbull and Easton on a variety of local issues. The towns have a good working relationship and it is my hope that passage of this legislation will lead to greater coordination and cooperation.

It is difficult to find fault with this legislation. In the current economic climate, I am committed to doing everything within my power to cut spending wherever possible—this is one very productive way in which to accomplish that. Safety is the number one priority of any government entity and this legislation is one such opportunity for emergency response to reach those in need much faster and much more efficiently.

Thank you for your time and support.

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p. 11, line 12

UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU

Connecticut Independent Labor Union/
Connecticut Independent Police Union

March 4, 2010
Re: Raised Bill No. 132/An Act Mandating the Regionalization of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunication Centers

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Name is Marie Lausch. I have been a 911 Dispatcher for the City of New Britain for 18 years, and am also President of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) Local 222, representing over 2000 Municipal and Board of Education members, including hundreds of 911 Dispatchers across the State.

I have come to speak to you today in opposition of Raised Bill # 312 as it stands. I am not against regionalization of resources in general. I think if several towns are able to share a stump grinder, a swimming pool, a dog pound, etc, it might be a cost efficient idea. However, I think that forced wholesale regionalization of emergency services jeopardizes the public's safety.

While there are some regionalized services in operation already, such as the State Police Barracks services to small towns, and the Tolland County Fire Dispatch Center, I do not think this would be universally effective, and urge you to consider the downside of 911 regionalization.

I begin by asking this esteemed panel a simple question. What would be the total statewide cost of this plan? Do you have an exact figure? I am sure the overall total would be astronomical! You certainly could not just say "Pack up your portables and report to the new dispatch center tomorrow!" Assuredly there would be a requirement for new equipment with interconnectivity between towns and their existing police, fire, and EMS equipment, a larger facility to house such a center (probably new,) re-cabling, re-establishing microwave towers and other technologies, system redundancies, as well as the re-training of thousands of workers.

Folks, I drive a 2000 Ford Mustang, a zippy little car, kind of fun to drive. There is no doubt that I could get better gas mileage if I bought a brand new BMW. I'd save significantly at the pumps, and probably do better on oil, too! There is one little problem though: I cannot ***afford*** a new BMW (especially on a Dispatcher's pay.) The economic times are way too tough, and there is no way I could shoulder the cost. It is the same with our Connecticut taxpayers in these ruinous financial times, ladies and gentlemen. With our already overburdened State budget, we cannot ***afford*** to implement new regional centers and have them up and running by 2013.

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(860) 657-8113 • www.cilu.org • Fax (860) 657-9921

The second issue I wish to raise is that of service and safety of the general public. In speaking to many dispatchers in various towns, especially urban towns with large low-income populations, we estimate that perhaps 25% - 30% of the 911 calls we get are from cellphones with no caller ID. Only the phone number, and the nearest cell tower shows on our enhanced 911 screens. Many times the college student, the elderly person unfamiliar with the area, a person with a language or speech impairment, or an injured party simply cannot tell us where they are. I have sent police cars out to one area of town on a hunch, with sirens blaring, trying to pinpoint the site of an emergency, and it is extremely nerve-wracking. Imagine enlarging the search area!

I also think that taking control away from the towns that are serviced, particularly large urban areas, eradicates local control, and also accountability. Would all 911 Dispatchers be terminated and re-hired into regional districts? Who has seniority, which operating system would be used? Are you going to bill towns by the amount of 911 calls made? What about the local calls such as those for directions, road conditions, questions of where people are incarcerated, etc? Should one town be billed more than another for these types of service?

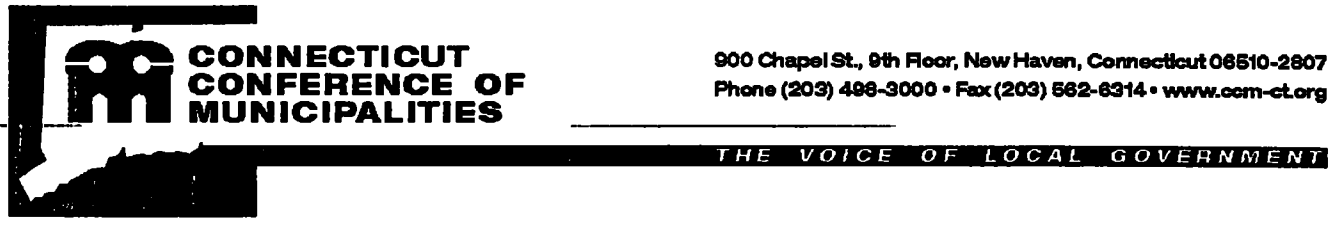
Finally, I make the case of dollars / vs. / people; the human quotient. When a lost child calls crying and says he can see "a blue building," I know where he is. When the 2 year old is choking on a grape, as the parents from out of town call frantically, I know which intersection they are at by the landmarks they give. When an 86-year-old lady runs out of oil on a Saturday, and is too afraid to go to a shelter, I know just the guy to send to assist her, with a thermos of cocoa and a space heater. When the medics struggle during an ice storm to bring a man in cardiac arrest to the hospital, I know who to call for sand. I, like most 911 Dispatchers in the State, am committed to my job. I love my town, and the people in it. I am the FIRST first responder that you talk to on the phone. I treat MY police officers, MY firefighters, MY medics like family, because we are. Don't put peoples' lives in danger for the saving of a buck. Please do not Wal-Mart-ize the emergency services of Connecticut, our citizens deserve better.

Thank you,

Marie C. Lausch

Marie C. Lausch
New Britain 911 Dispatcher
President, UE Local 222

(860) 558-1316



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TESTIMONY

OF THE

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

TO THE

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 4, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before this joint committee on issues of concern to towns and cities.

SB 312 **"An Act Mandating the Regionalization of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunication Centers"**

SB 312 would mandate the consolidation of *municipal* public safety answering points into *regional* public safety answering points (PSAPs) via a de facto state mandate, by withholding critical funds to hometowns that do not comply with this mandate by the year 2013. SB 312 is the absolute wrong approach – and an unnecessarily blunt stick absent any carrot. Now is not the time for the State to hold local aid hostage – particularly with regard to critical emergency services.

Local law enforcement officials rely on a certain degree of flexibility to (a) ensure the safety of their own communities, and (b) address the unique demands and concerns of their citizens. **CCM appreciates the intent of this bill – regionalization should be encouraged – however, we have concerns about SB 312 as a new, unfunded state mandate on municipalities.** Local officials should be allowed the discretion to determine which PSAPs would work best for their communities – either operated locally or regionally. One size does not fit all in Connecticut.

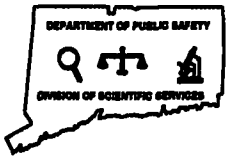
Therefore, CCM urges the committee to protect towns' local option to determine how best to manage their public safety calls – and to provide, up front, the necessary funding to encourage regional consolidation.

CCM urges the Committee take **no action on SB 312.**

◈◈◈◈◈

If you have any questions, please call Bob Labanara or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM, at (203) 498-3000

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S Henion
Chief of Staff

March 4, 2010

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 312 AN ACT MANDATING THE REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION CENTERS

The Department of Public Safety advises committee of factors to be included in consideration of bill.

The Department of Public Safety supports the public policy goals attained through the regionalization of 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points. However, there are two factors the committee may wish to consider concerning the present language of the bill.

Currently, municipalities whose populations are more than 40,000 and which utilize a single PSAP for all services ("funded municipalities") receive funding from the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications ("OSET") using formulas comparable to that for regional centers. The justification for this is that the state's goals are being met, since the funded municipalities are realizing the efficiencies of regionalization due simply to their size. The proposed bill would have the effect of penalizing every funded municipality, unless they attract two other municipalities to join their center. Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, Waterbury, Bridgeport and West Haven are among the cities affected. There are a total of 22 funded municipalities.

Also, if the bill becomes law, it will have a significant effect on the OSET budget, which is funded entirely from the 9-1-1 surcharge on phone bills. The amount of the surcharge is set by the Department of Public Utility Control, but is subject to a statutory cap. The statutory cap is 50 cents and the current approved DPUC charge is 47 cents. There is no flexibility to allow for significant new obligations for the 911 fund.

Sincerely,

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER

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An Equal Opportunity Employee

p.1, line 9

Members of the Public Safety Committee.

My name is Ernest Herrick, Chairperson of the 911 Commission.

I speak in opposition to Raised Bill 312, An Act Mandating the Regionalization of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunication Centers.

I and the 911 Commission are strongly in favor of regionalization and promoted it over the years. Funding is available through the 911 fund, administered by The Dept. of Public Safety, Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, so that municipalities may perform studies to determine if regionalizing is cost effective for them. There have been a number of studies done over the last few years. When it comes down to signing, one or more of the parties involved will not sign for a number of reasons.

It's my strong feeling that Raised Bill 312 is not the way to go to promote regionalization. This needs to be studied to be sure that whatever is decided will be in the best interest of the people of our State. Not funding existing PSAPs if they don't regionalize is not the way to do it.

Think about this. The way existing legislation is written, each phone bill has an assessment on it for the 911 Emergency System. As I understand Raised Bill 312, this assessment is still in place. If this is the intent that PSAPs would not get funding if they did not regionalize by 2013, the phone bills in these towns would still be assessed the Sur-charge for 911 on their phone bill without any benefit.

In closing, I'm not against regionalization. It's proven that it will save municipalities money however it's needs to be done correctly. That's why there should be a study to make sure we make it fair and equitable for each municipality.

Thank you for allowing me the time. I will answer any questions you may have.