

PA13-204

HB6565

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| Finance | 725, 726, 788-790 | 5 |
| House | 5463-5471 | 9 |
| Senate | 5134, 5157-5159 | 4 |
| | | 18 |

H – 1165

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 16
5210 – 5544**

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

113
May 22, 2013

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

If all the members have voted, the machine will
be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally please.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5844, as Amended by House
"A".

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Total Number Voting | 143 |
| Necessary for Passage | 72 |
| Those voting Yea | 143 |
| Those voting Nay | 0 |
| Absent and not voting | 7 |

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill, as amended, is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 420?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

On Page 47 of today's calendar, Calendar Number
420, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee

HB 6565

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

114
May 22, 2013

on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, House Bill 6565, AN ACT
ELIMINATING A TOWN'S ABILITY TO PHASE IN REAL PROPERTY
ASSESSMENT DECREASE.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Patricia Widlitz.

You have the floor, madam.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Representative Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, this bill eliminates a
municipality's authority to phase in all or part of
the decreases in real property assessments after a
property reval.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is on adoption.

Please proceed.

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

115
May 22, 2013

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The reason this is before us is actually during the Special Session June 12th of last year there was a provision that appeared that was sort of a surprise to many of us. It had not been heard in any of the Committees of Cognizance. And it would actually have had the consequence -- the possible consequence of a taxpayer having to pay more in property taxes than they should have because of the assessed value of their property.

So no one -- it is to the best of my knowledge -- no one is actually using this provision. So before it gains momentum we need to repeal it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of the bill for some of the good reasons the Chairwoman said, but in particular

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

116
May 22, 2013

for some similar municipal tax issues. I am call an amendment.

The Clerk has on his desk, it's LCO Number 7522.

I ask that it be called and I be permitted to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 7522, which will be designated as House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 7522, as introduced by Representative Shaban.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Objection? Objection?

Hearing none, Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The proposed amendment is really quite simple. In existing law right now, a municipality has the ability to establish an ordinance or a program, whatever they deem appropriate, to abate all or a portion of property taxes due on real property when it

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

117
May 22, 2013

relates to the surviving spouse of a police officer or firefighter who has died in the line of duty.

Now this issue came to me in particular when back in Super Song -- Super Storm Sandy, a firefighter from the Town of Easton, one of my towns, Russ Neery, was killed in the line of duty. And my Town of Easton did the appropriate thing and went to abate the surviving spouse's property taxes. And in doing so what we found was that the Emergency Medical Technician standing right next to him, who darned near almost lost, you know, their lives as well, would not have been eligible for that same treatment, should the Town so decide to abate their property taxes.

So the purpose of this amendment is to add simply the term Emergency Medical Technician to that laundry list of first responders who can, if a Town so chooses, have their property taxes abated or their surviving spouse have their property tax -- taxes abated.

So, Madam Speaker, I think it is obviously germane to this bill. It's an appropriate response to support our first responders and their families. And I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

118
May 22, 2013

Representative Patricia Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I thank the Representative for working on this bill. The original language was not really acceptable, but he has worked on this and this is enabling for a municipality, it is not a mandate. So I consider this a friendly amendment and will be happy to support it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us?

Representative Sean Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good afternoon.

Just briefly, in support of the amendment and to echo what Representative Widlitz said, that there was some consternation on the Finance Committee on the original proposal, but I thank Representative Widlitz and other Members of the Committee for working with Representative Shaban to come up with some language that actually makes sense.

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

119
May 22, 2013

As Representative Widlitz said, this is enabling legislation for communities if they so choose to take advantage of it. I believe that -- and I would certainly hope that the members of Representative Shaban's community will be taking advantage of this and so many others.

So I would urge the Members to support the amendment.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further on the amendment?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

All those opposed, nay.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The ayes have it.

The Amendment is adopted.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just in support of the underlying bill. I think Representative Widlitz adequately explained the purpose and the intent of the bill. We did pass this legislation last year and I think there were a number of people who were concerned about the potential impact to property owners who may be paying higher property taxes than they otherwise would or should have should a community have enabled this legislation or enacted this enabling legislation. So I would support -- urge support of the bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well

hac/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

121
May 22, 2013

of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?
Have all members voted?

If all members have voted, please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally please.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6565, as Amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting 143

Necessary for Passage 72

Those voting Yea 140

Those voting Nay 3

Absent and not voting 7

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill, as amended, passes.

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

S - 667

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL. 56
PART 16
4803 - 5160**

cah/gbr
SENATE

332
June 4, 2013

House Bill 6705.

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Total Number Voting | 35 |
| Necessary for Adoption | 18 |
| Those voting Yea | 21 |
| Those voting Nay | 14 |
| Absent and not voting | 1 |

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Will you remark?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam -- Madam President, yes I have some additional items to add to the Consent Calendar.

Madam President, the first item is on Calendar Page 7, Calendar 536, Senate Bill 1163, would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Next is Calendar Page 14, Calendar 651, House Bill 6565.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

The third item is Calendar Page 3 -- excuse me
Calendar Page 15, Calendar 660, House Bill 6290.

cah/gbr
SENATE

355
June 4, 2013

Madam President, seeing no objection, would this item please be placed on our Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney..

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, with that item being moved to the Consent Calendar, Madam President, there is an -- an item on the foot of the Calendar to be removed and, Madam President, on -- on the foot of the Calendar, Calendar Page 42, Calendar 648, House Bill 6660, would move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it passed retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, at this point if the Clerk would list the items on the second Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5607; House Bill 6509; House Bill 5027. On Page 4, Calendar 459, House Bill 6622; on Page 7, Calendar 536, Senate Bill 1163.

HB6591

Page 14, Calendar 651, House Bill 6565. On Page 15, Calendar 660, House Bill 6290. Page 17, Calendar 678, House Bill 6671. Also Calendar 686, House Bill 6528.

cah/gbr
SENATE

356
June 4, 2013

On Page 19, Calendar 689, House Bill 6677 and on Page 24, Calendar 484, Senate Bill Number 983.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the second Consent Calendar. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on Senate -- on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Consent Calendar Number 2.

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Total Number Voting | 35 |
| Necessary for Adoption | 18 |
| Those voting Yea | 35 |
| Those voting Nay | 0 |
| Absent and not voting | 1 |

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of any items voted on the second Consent Calendar needing additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

cah/gbr
SENATE

357
June 4, 2013

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also if there are any other items that were voted individually that may need additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Good, thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, that will conclude -- conclude our business for this evening or this morning at this point. Before adjournment I would yield the floor to any members for announcements or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Any announcements or personal privilege?

Seeing none, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, for a -- a Journal notation. Senator Coleman was -- was absent and missed votes today due to -- due to illness.

THE CHAIR:

So noted, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, one other item. On the -- the -- the items on the foot of the Calendar beginning on Calendar Page 27, beginning with Calendar 59, on Calendar Page 27 at the beginning of the foot and

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**FINANCE
REVENUE
AND BONDING
PART 3
616 - 925**

2013

106

March 11, 2013

rgd/med/mb/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND 10:30 A.M.
BONDING COMMITTEE

investments in business growth, which in turn will create the need for more jobs and one of these ways is by expanding the state R and D tax credit to the past through entities.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much for your testimony. Are there questions? Thank you.

PAUL HOFFMAN: May I just comment on one of the prior -- testimony, prior on the apprenticeship tax credits. There was a comment about CCAT and concept and we've used both of those and they're very -- they're very good organizations and ones that should be supported by the state, because for small and medium sized manufacturers they are one of -- one of the only means of getting that kind of support for companies, you know, like ourselves.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you very much. Bonnie Stewart, followed by Wade Gibson, Paula Perlman and Kathleen Ross.

BONNIE STEWART: Good afternoon. My name is Bonnie Stewart and I'm vice president of government affairs to the Connecticut business and industry association. I've submitted written testimony on several bills in support of senate bill 1053, which is expanding the apprenticeship training tax credit to (inaudible) in particular (inaudible) corporations.

HB 6565
SB 1055
HB 6566

In support of section 4 of senate bill 1052, which would eliminate the gross received tax for cosmetic grade mineral oil is concerned, that's something that a lot of or manufacturers use and actually taxing that is unique to Connecticut for that manufacturing process and makes us uncompetitive in that area.

I'm also supporting senate bill 6565, which

eliminates the phase in of the real property assessment decreases. That was a big issue, because that actually passed during the special session last year that hadn't been a hearing on it and that is something that our members are quite concerned with.

I'd like to focus the majority of my testimony today, though, on two bills that we're greatly concerned with and we oppose. The first would be section 6 of the Senate Bill 1055 and that has to do with the research and development carry forward. And that's a big concern for us, as was pointed out earlier by UTC, the research and experimental or development stage or phase is something that could be quite lengthy, not only for pharmaceutical companies, but aerospace companies and others.

And if you do not match that up with the opportunity have later to earn a profit, it makes that tax credit worthless. And therefore taking and cutting back significantly the way this measure does the carry forward, creates significant problems for Connecticut.

There are -- a lot of times when a company will have a product that never makes it to market, not only something with the pharmaceuticals, but it could be a new engine or something that you might be working on. It's an opportunity to go back and figure out a different way to go and you may be able to come up with something in the end. But there's a lot of trial and error when it comes to research and development. And that's why that tale or the carry forward is so important.

So I would ask that you reject scaling back that carry forward. On House Bill 6566, the disclosure measure, that too is a significant concern for us. And the reason why it's a



Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Finance Committee
March 11, 2013

RE: HB-6565, An Act Eliminating a Town's Ability to Phase in Real Property Assessment Decrease

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents approximately 115 small towns throughout Connecticut, *opposes* **HB-6565, An Act Eliminating a Town's Ability to Phase in a Real Property Assessment Decrease.**

COST opposes this bill because it undermines a municipality's ability to phase in revaluation when there is a drop in the grand list. Many towns are experiencing declines in their grand list due to the challenging economy. Phasing in a decrease in the real property assessment can lessen concerns associated with shifts in property taxes.

COST urges rejection of this bill.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.

Connecticut Council of Small Towns
1245 Farmington Avenue, 101 West Hartford, CT 06107
860-676-0770 860-676-2662 Fax

L.
P:

18

Testimony of Bonnie Stewart
Vice President of Government Affairs, CBIA
Before the
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Hartford, CT
March 11, 2013

Testifying in Support of HB 6565 An Act Eliminating A Town's Ability To Phase In
A Real Property Assessment Decrease

Good Afternoon. My name is Bonnie Stewart and I am Vice President of Government Affairs at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents more than 10,000 employers throughout the state of Connecticut ranging from one-person businesses to large corporations. The majority of our members have fewer than 50 employees.

CBIA supports HB 6565 which would eliminate the ability of cities and towns to phase in assessment decreases resulting from revaluation

Last year cities and towns were first given the ability to phase in assessment decreases resulting from revaluation in legislation passed during special session. This was not a matter that was discussed at a public hearing either before the Finance Committee or Planning and Development Committee, but has been a great concern for many taxpayers since its passage.

The revaluations that have been done since the beginning of the Great Recession are the first in years to post significant declines in assessments. These declines are of course warranted by market conditions. The phase in bill passed last year allows municipalities to avoid giving taxpayers the full "benefit" of these declines which is not fair

The phase in bill passed last year is yet another version of revaluation delay. Continuing to allow the phase in of assessment decreases has the potential of making our property tax system more unpredictable, less transparent and more complicated. Therefore, it should not be permitted

CBIA urges you to adopt HB 6565 to make our property tax system more predictable, more transparent and less complicated. Adoption of this measure would be a win, win, win.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.



FINANCE REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE

March 11, 2013

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (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 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

Proposed Raised Bill 6565 "An Act Eliminating a Towns Ability to Phase in a Real Property Assessment Decrease"

This proposal would mandate that towns and cities are prohibited from implementing a strategy of phasing in a property revaluation for decreasing grand lists.

It is no secret that local officials need a certain level of discretion and flexibility that can best fit their communities as they navigate this stalled economy. To this end, **Raised Bill 6565** would deny municipalities the local option of phasing in a revaluation on a decreasing grand list and thus, prohibit local officials from possibly lessening the burden of looming property tax shifts.

Towns and cities need options as they face the challenges of this fiscal climate – this proposed state mandate would limit such options.

CCM urges the Committee to **take no action on 6565**.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager of CCM via email rlabanara@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3000.