

PA13-235

HB6488

House	4356-4359	4
Public Safety	2049-2056, 2068-2069, 2078-2081	14
Senate	4981-4992, 5043-5044	14
		32

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 13
4177 – 4511**

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

If all the members have voted, the machine will
be (inaudible).

And Mr. Clerk would you please announce the
tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6482	
Total Number Voting	133
Necessary for Passage	67
Those voting Yea	94
Those voting Nay	39
Absent and not voting	17

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 246?

THE CLERK:

On Page ten, House Calendar 246, Favorable Report
of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Safety and
Security, Substitute House Bill 6488, AN ACT
CONCERNING THE EVACUATION AND TEMPORARY SHELTERING OF
CERTAIN ANIMALS DURING EMERGENCIES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hampton. You have the floor, sir.

REP. HAMPTON (16th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good evening, sir.

REP. HAMPTON (16th):

Good to see you.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Questions on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. HAMPTON (16th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

This bill requires towns and cities to consider the evacuation of animals during a Civil Preparedness Event and Emergency and also, requires that the municipality appoints a representative from an Animal Support Organization, Service Organization, such as the Humane Society, to the Local Civic Preparedness Organization.

I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the bill that's before us?

Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of the bill before us. It was a bill before the Public Safety Committee that moved out unanimously. It has no state impact and no municipal impact, and fiscally -- there's no fiscal note for the state or the municipality, and I urge my clients' support.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the bill that's before us?

If not, staff and guests please 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.

The House of Representative is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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

Members please check the board to make sure that your vote is properly cast.

If, in fact, all the members have voted, the machine will be locked by the Speaker. Careful now. And the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6488	
Total Number Voting	134
Necessary for Passage	68
Those voting Yea	134
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	16

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call the Calendar 422?

THE CLERK:

Calendar 422, Page 21, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, AN ACT --, House Bill 6587, AN ACT CONCERNING AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE STATE AND MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IS LOCATED.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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Thank you, Mr. President.

And also, Mr. President, calendar page 24, Calendar 452, Senate Bill Number 1142, move to place that item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And Mr. President, if the Clerk would call as the next item, Calendar page 11, Calendar 621, House Bill 6488.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 11, Calendar 621, Substitute for House Bill Number 6488, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVACUATION AND TEMPORARY SHELTERING OF CERTAIN ANIMALS DURING EMERGENCIES, favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes. Good evening, Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report, sir, and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

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Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

This bill very simply requires that municipalities consider whether to include in, when they are crafting their emergency plans of operation, provisions for the evacuation of nonmilitary pets and service animals and the temporary sheltering of such pets and animals. And also requires the local civil preparedness advisory council include representatives of local state, and animal humane organizations.

I move passage, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further?

Senator Chapin then Senator Kane.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

A couple questions, to the proponent, through you, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

In the second part of the bill we're adding in language to have, I guess, somebody appointed to the local emergency planning committee from a local and state animal humane organization. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

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SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

Yes. And to Senator Chapin, yes, that's true.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again, through you, is the purpose of adding somebody representing a local or a state animal humane organization to provide some sort of expertise on animal health and welfare?

through you, Mr. President

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes. Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Chapin, that is the purpose, Senator Chapin, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, I guess in my mind a local or a state animal humane organization is something like ASPCA or the Humane Society. Is the good chairlady aware of any other professions? Or would this just simply be a matter of paying \$20 to join an organization and therefore you're qualified?

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Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President to Senator Chapin.

The ones that you name are the ones that most commonly come to mind. And I am looking at line 45 with the term "humane organizations" as being an umbrella group which could encompass animal and health welfare organizations.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

One state organization that we've dealt with, at least as a member of the environment committee is the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, which is obviously an association of Connecticut Vets. And I guess I would think that they may be -- well, let me ask you. Would you consider a CVMA a state humane organization?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

Yes, Senator Chapin, I would.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank the good chairlady for her answers.

Mr. President, I had the privilege of serving on my local emergency planning committee at one point and some of the additions that this bill seeks to make I think are good ones. I think we should be given -- giving consideration to how we should be dealing with animals that fall into the categories in this bill.

But I also do think that it's important that if we're going to have, through an emergency, if you're going to end up with a group of animals that normally wouldn't come into contact with one another suddenly all exposed to one another, that I think somebody from an organization that has some expertise in health is -- and animal health certainly would be a plus. So I would encourage my colleagues to support it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I have a couple questions to the proponent of the bill, if I may?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, to Senator Hartley. In the summary it talks about how the bill requires municipalities to consider whether or not to include it in their emergency plan provisions. So I guess my first question is, how do we require someone to consider something? Is this actually a mandate? Or is it not?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Kane, I think it is just as you have described it. We are asking them that they consider this because previously this has not been delineated, which gives them the flexibility upon considering whether or not they ultimately include it in the plan. It is, once again, not to be a mandate, but it is draw attention to a very important component during such emergency evacuations.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So currently if there were an emergency and we know that we had Hurricane Sandy and we had that freak October snowstorm and then we've had a couple other snowstorms. So I know over the last two years we've lost power and had trees down and roads closed and some pretty nasty weather in the last couple years.

So when a town or a municipality opens up a shelter

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and typically it's in the high school or, you know, I'm guessing some gymnasium or cafeteria in one of the schools, what happens currently with these pets and/or animals, that are they allowed to come with the owner currently? Or is that something they do on the fly? Is it something that they're prohibited? I'm just trying to understand the current situation and how it's typically applied prior to this legislation.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Kane, presently it is up to the municipality and I would imagine that it would vary from town to town. It would also be obviously be very dependent upon what their facilities would be like. And I can't imagine a town or a municipality that has facilities that could accommodate and also not sacrifice the health and well-being of those being housed, families, children, elderly. But if they could, I would think that indeed they should.

Thank you. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. president.

And what about shelters that are not run by the State and/or municipality, say, the Red Cross or a faith-based group or something of that nature, like a nonprofit? What is -- is their policy the same?

Through, you Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And to you Senator Kane, because they are not municipal, I wouldn't hazard a guess.

Through, you Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So they would not be considered under this legislation, I take it. What type -- is there any limitation to the type of pet that may be considered to be offered this type of shelter?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President.

To Senator Kane, Senator Kane, once again, I think it would vary by municipality, by their means and what they could accommodate. This is meant to obviously preserve local control. We are simply asking them to consider.

Thank you, Mr. President. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

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Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And one last question, if I may? This is all, of course, part of the civil preparedness plan. These plans, I know ever since these storms that I mentioned have taken place, the plans have been re-altered, if you will, with the utility companies, with the state agencies, with different organizations. So all of these stakeholders, I guess, were involved with this legislation, is my question?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you Mr. President.

To Senator Kane, we had nothing but support for this. And it appears to be very much a collaborative issue. I think that animals and pets are -- kind a bond -- children are in everyone's heart, Senator Kane.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank Senator Hartley for answering my questions and I too will be in support of the bill.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Yes. I just -- thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Hartley for bringing this bill out. And if we go back as far as Katrina we saw unfortunately too many examples of people staying behind because they couldn't bring their pets. And some of them lost their lives protecting dogs and cats.

When we had our storm here a lot of people think that we had our power in a day. I was one of those -- it was 11 days -- with dogs and had, you know, some of my other -- my friends had some of their pets at my house. And it's just one of those things that you do because pets are family. Whether we like it or not, pets are family. Particularly if you don't have children, you're older and so on, they're great companions and they need to be protected.

In the last storm our shelter did make provisions. We set aside rooms, in fact, they testified here at the capitol, rooms for people with disabilities. Rooms for animals. We had cats in one place and dogs in another place. And people left their homes and went to shelter because they knew that their animals were protected. That is very, very important. That comfort level, and that's what this bill does.

And you know, it's like anything else. If you get a challenge you deal with the challenge and we're smart enough to work things out and look for alternatives. In fact, we even looked at buying some cages and having cages available just like you have cots available for a storm. So it's a great bill and I appreciate you bringing it out, Senator Hartley.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

Oh, Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, very briefly I rise to strongly support the bill as well. During the multiple power outages that we had, many of us have many towns in our district and visited each one of them during those very difficult periods, visiting the various shelters and the various programs. And I have to say that a couple of my seven towns really went a long way to providing an area for some domestic animals, and not just cats and dogs.

There were an amazing number of very unique pets that were also there. And it was great to see them have their own space where their owners were able to have the comfort and security, but be very close to their pets as well. The frightening time and sometimes all you do have is that pet at home. Particularly for our seniors often times some older women, this is a terrific benefit and some of the other towns just may not have provided that in thinking about it in advance. And I think this will go a long way to reminding everyone that we should be taking care of all of those folks, that we care, and animals as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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And if there is no objection, I would ask that this be added to the consent calendar, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney?

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the Clerk would call next calendar page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill 6454; to be followed by calendar page 18, Calendar 685, House Bill 6009; and then calendar page 24, Calendar 566, House Bill 6375.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill Number 6454, AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE STATION WORK ZONES, favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety and Security.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report, sir, and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House as amended by House "A," sir.

THE CHAIR:

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Page 3, Calendar 422, Senate Bill 978; on page 4, Calendar 475, Senate Bill 1052; on page 8, Calendar 567, House Bill 6387; Calendar 568, House Bill 6445; and Calendar 580, House Bill 6623.

On page 9, Calendar 583, House Bill 5149; and Calendar 590, House Bill 6680; page 10, Calendar 607, House Bill 6688; and calendar 608, House Bill 6384.

Page 11, Calendar 612, House Bill 6448; and Calendar 621, House Bill 6488. On page 12, Calendar 634, House Bill 6403; and Calendar 636, House Bill 6394; page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill 6454; and page 14, Calendar 652, House Bill 6702.

On page 16, Calendar 674, House Bill 6441; page 17, Calendar 677, House Bill 6644; on page 18, Calendar 685, House Bill 6009; and on page 23, Calendar 380 Senate Bill 1054; page 24, Calendar 452, Senate Bill 1142; and Calendar 566, House Bill 6375.

Page 25, Calendar 646, House Bill 5844; and on page 26, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 1019.

THE CHAIR:

At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on a first consent calendar?

The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators, please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call on the first consent calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted? All members have voted. The machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally?

THE CLERK:

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The first consent calendar.

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

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of all items acted on thus far today requiring additional action in that chamber.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also, Madam President, on an item previously placed on the foot of the Calendar, would now seek to remove that item and just mark it PR, and that is an item calendar page 16, Calendar 672, House Bill 5480, AN ACT PROHIBITING TAMPERING WITH HYDRANTS. Would just move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it PR.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 6
1768 - 2112**

2013

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cah/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY
COMMITTEE

March 18, 2013
6:00 P.M.

REP. DARGAN: Phelan St. Pat --

TIMOTHY G. PHELAN: Senator Hartley, you know that.
I have lots of friends.

REP. DARGAN: Phelan, St. Patrick's Day has passed.

TIMOTHY G. PHELAN: Oh it's always St. Patrick's Day
in Waterbury.

REP. DARGAN: Okay I guess, okay, next.

TIMOTHY G. PHELAN: It is a pleasure to be here.

REP. DARGAN: Okay, yeah.

SENATOR HARTLEY: They're -- they're giving you the
(inaudible).

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

SENATOR HARTLEY: Okay, thanks, Tim.

TIMOTHY G. PHELAN: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: As -- as Chairman Dargan would say
bye bye now.

REP. DARGAN: Yes, bye bye now. Hit the road -- hit
the road.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Gor-- Gordon Willard.

GORDON G. WILLARD: Tim, I don't know you but thank
you for warming up the crowd for me.

Chairs Hartley and Dargan, distinguished
members of the Committee of the Public Safety
and Security Committee, thanks for the
opportunity to come before you and speak about
H.B. 6488, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVACUATION AND

TEMPORARY SHELTERING OF CERTAIN ANIMALS DURING
EMERGENCIES.

We, along with CCM, support this proposal which provides res -- reporting requirements on the state and local level by establishing a protocol for the safe evacuation and sheltering of companion animals during natural disasters.

Connecticut Humane Society, along with the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, serves as a resource for town animal control looking for shel -- looking to shelter companion animals during all types of emergencies. Despite this no plans or reporting requirements are in place to ensure that sufficient shelter space is available throughout the state in the event of a disaster when referrals from towns exceeds the capacity to shelter those animals.

H.B. 6488 provides for the necessary planning for companion animals by implementing the following changes:

- Require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to include companion and service animals in their annual report.
- Reintroduce the requirement to establish, document and provide shelter for companion animals during a disaster.
- Add protocols for companion and service animals to the local and regional emergency response plans.
- Add local and state humane organizations to local planning advisory councils to

assist with establishing protocols.

- And add a category to local government situation forms for the reporting of evacuation measures for shelters -- for sheltering nonmilitary companion and service animals.

The Legislature and Governor approved a bill that required any emergency evacuation plan to include plans -- to -- to be a statutory plan under the civil preparedness. The passage of this act, that's Act 07-11, I think that was in 2007, represents evacuation plans but does not represent requirements for sheltering of companion animals or the ability to report on those responses provided for companion animals during natural disasters.

CHS has collaboratively collected information on a state, local and private provider level and is confident that this proposal is a strong step in enhancing the coordination amongst emergency responders, animal shelters and others incorporated into any response protocol.

Thank you for your -- opportunity to tes -- testify before the Committee and if anyone has any questions I'll give it a shot.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yeah thanks so much, Gordon --

GORDON G. WILLARD: Okay.

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- for being here and coming on down to Waterbury.

Are there questions from Committee members?

Yes, Representative Kupchick.

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COMMITTEE

March 18, 2013
6:00 P.M.

GORDON G. WILLARD: Yes.

REP. KUPCHICK: Thank you for being here.

GORDON G. WILLARD: Sure.

REP. KUPCHICK: And thank you for your testimony.
Are you saying you want certain requirements in
place, not just the sheltering but how they're
sheltered?

GORDON G. WILLARD: Well I think as we move forward
most plans are going to have much more detail.
What I find is about a day before, a couple of
hours before, I get a frantic call and they say
we need help. I think, you know, the -- the
material I've seen says you have to have a plan
but I don't see a lot of the detail and where
there is detail the dust gets blown off and
then someone reacts.

So I think there needs to be greater detail and
I think it needs to incorporate the humane
community because they can be very helpful in
this kind of response.

REP. KUPCHICK: I would agree with you because I
think, especially since the storms that we've
had obviously so much more frequently --

GORDON G. WILLARD: Yes.

REP. KUPCHICK: -- and the need for people to now
evacuate more frequently than we ever had to, I
think it's important that towns have that in
place because it is a big deal.

I know in our town we had the facility
available. We are a shoreline community. A
lot of people had to evacuate. Our animal
shelter was in an evacuation area.

GORDON G. WILLARD: Right.

REP. KUPCHICK: So they had to leave also and it was a little tight in there. There was people who brought their animals and then we had our entire animal shelter population in there too so it should be something that they have and it's -- it's set and they know how it's going to work.

GORDON G. WILLARD: Well I think a definition of any animal control or animal shelter is that they're usually are already full without an impending disaster.

REP. KUPCHICK: Right.

GORDON G. WILLARD: So finding space is really a -- a matter of planning --

REP. KUPCHICK: Um-hum.

GORDON G. WILLARD: -- and having auxiliary equipment. Now there are opportunities for auxiliary equipment from the state but I'm -- I've not seen a real strong plan, or if there is one, it hasn't been incorporated and certainly in 2010 my first introduction to Connecticut was a big rain storm and about six hours before it was supposed to hit, a frantic phone.

So then we began looking and -- and while some may have it covered and it might be a regional response, luckily if a disaster is just a region, the rest of the state can respond and help.

REP. KUPCHICK: Right.

GORDON G. WILLARD: But if we get a full across the board kind of thing, I don't think we're prepared for that and -- and we probably will never be but we can do better at being prepared for it.

REP. KUPCHICK: No I think it's a good idea and I appreciate your testimony.

GORDON G. WILLARD: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you.

GORDON G. WILLARD: Great.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you very much, Gordon.

And we'd like to now invite Carly Imhoff from Stafford who came all the way here.

CARLY IMHOFF: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you for coming.

CARLY IMHOFF: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yes go ahead.

CARLY IMHOFF: All right. Honorable Senators and Representatives, thank you for your time. My name is Carly Imhoff and I'm a public school science teacher. In addition I attend the School of Social Work at UCONN.

I am also the owner of a 15 year old husky that I have had since I was a child. She's the reason I am here today to testify on Bill 6488, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVACUATION AND TEMPORARY SHELTERING OF CERTAIN ANIMALS DURING EMERGENCIES. I am for this legislation and I hope you will support it.

According to a Gallup Poll six out of ten Americans have some type of pet. Often during natural disasters humans evacuate to shelters and hotels that might not take their pets especially large animals. People may choose not to evacuate and they might put themselves at risk in order to stay with their animals during a disaster.

Not providing temporary shelter for pets during natural disasters can be a safety issue for the owner. When returning to school -- to school after severe weather, my students often are most concerned about their pet's safety. The children generally feel that their safety is assured but they worry about the pets they've left behind.

During Hurricane Sandy, I paid \$60 a night for my dog to stay in a boarding facility while I stayed in a hotel. I am fortunate that I could afford to do this and that there was space available in a boarding facility that I trusted.

However, this is not the case for all animals and their owners. The evacuation and temporary sheltering of animals during emergencies deserves your consideration and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Well, Carly, your commitment to your pet as well as all others is demonstrated by you being here.

CARLY IMHOFF: Um-hum.

SENATOR HARTLEY: And I know there's some impending snow so I'm hoping that --

CARLY IMHOFF: Well luckily I have a husky so she'll be okay with that. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Are there questions from Committee members?

No.

Thanks so much, Carly.

CARLY IMHOFF: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: And we would like to have Representative Butler from the 72nd District join us.

REP. DARGAN: Before we start, Senator Hartley --

SENATOR HARTLEY: (Inaudible) get here.

REP. DARGAN: -- we need -- we need -- we need Larry Butler to raise his right hand. He has spoken at every one our public hearings and we should make him an honorary member.

And with that, Larry, since you're on the Committee, underneath our current laws, anyone that's a Legislator on the Committee cannot have public testimony.

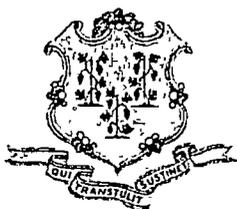
So thank you and good night.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Except that Representative Butler is really helping to host us here tonight.

REP. DARGAN: Yes and he's buying us drinks thereafter so --

SENATOR HARTLEY: Please proceed, sir.

REP. DARGAN: I'll never forget (inaudible).



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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Testimony of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities Before the Public Safety and Security Committee

Submitted by: James D. McGaughey
Executive Director
March 18, 2013

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to comment on two bills on your agenda today. They are: **Committee Bill No. 5353, An Act Requiring State Buildings to be Accessible to Persons with Disabilities;** and **Raised Bill No. 6488, An Act Concerning the Evacuation and Temporary Sheltering of Certain Animals During Emergencies.**

Bill No. 5353 would amend statutory requirements for accessibility in the State Building Code that apply to State buildings that are open to the public. More specifically, the bill would require that by January 1, 2021, each such building be made accessible via a sloped ramp and an automatically activated entrance door, and that it contain at least one accessible bathroom and elevator. Our Office wholeheartedly supports this concept. Whereas the accessibility requirements that apply to commercial buildings often reflect compromises reached between competing interests, and therefore, in many applications do not call for features such as automatically activated entrance doors, government buildings should be as free of barriers as it is reasonably possible to make them. This is both because they are locations where public business is transacted, and because they should set an example to which all others can aspire. I urge your support for this bill, and would offer our Office's assistance to answer any questions or concerns that members of the Committee may have.

Bill No 6488 would require State level disaster planning to include provisions for evacuation and sheltering of animals, including pets and service animals. It would also amend current statutory language which allows municipalities to "consider" whether to plan for the evacuation of livestock and horses, by allowing them to also "consider" whether to plan for the evacuation and sheltering of pets and service animals.

In recognition of the fact that many people fail to follow evacuation orders because they will not leave their pets behind, emergency planners are now overwhelmingly recommending that disaster planning include provisions for sheltering pets. However, planning for the evacuation and sheltering of service animals is not a matter of "recommendation"; it is a legal requirement for all governmental entities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The U.S. Department of Justice, which has

promulgated the relevant ADA regulations, has issued a "Toolkit" for emergency planners and managers. Here is what it says about service animals:

Reasonable Modifications

The ADA generally requires emergency managers and shelter operators to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures when necessary to avoid discrimination. A reasonable modification must be made unless it would impose an undue financial and administrative burden. The following are examples of reasonable modifications that emergency managers and shelter operators will generally need to make:

Modify "no pets" policies to welcome people who use service animals. Many emergency shelters do not allow residents or volunteers to bring their pets inside. But shelters must generally modify "no pets" policies to allow people with disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals.

A service animal is not a pet. Under the ADA, a service animal is any animal that is individually trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability. Most people are familiar with dogs that guide people who are blind or have low vision. But there are many other functions that service animals perform for people with a variety of disabilities. Examples include alerting people who are deaf or hard of hearing to sounds; pulling wheelchairs; carrying or retrieving items for people with mobility disabilities or limited use of arms or hands; assisting people with disabilities to maintain their balance; and alerting people to, and protecting them during, medical events such as seizures.

How can a service animal be identified? Service animals come in all breeds and sizes. Many are easily identified because they wear special harnesses, capes, vests, scarves, or patches. Others can be identified by the functions they perform for people whose disabilities can be readily observed. When none of these identifiers are present, shelter staff may ask only two questions to determine if an animal is a service animal: (1) "Do you need this animal because of a disability?" and (2) "What tasks or work has the animal been trained to perform?" If the answers to these questions reveal that the animal has been trained to work or perform tasks for a person with a disability, it qualifies as a service animal and must generally be allowed to accompany its owner anywhere other members of the public are allowed to go, including areas where food is served and most areas where medical care is provided. Questions about the nature or severity of a person's disability or ability to function may not be asked. It is also inappropriate to question a person's need for a service animal or to exclude a service animal on the grounds that shelter staff or volunteers can provide the assistance normally provided by the service animal.

To the extent the language in Bill No. 6488 is inconsistent with the requirements of the ADA, I would urge the Committee to amend it.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If there are any questions, or if our Office can be helpful in further clarifying or researching these issues, please feel free to contact me.

Public Testimony on Bill 6488

Carly Imhoff

3/18/13

Honorable Senators and Representatives, thank you for your time. My name is Carly Imhoff and I am a public school science teacher. In addition, I attend the School of Social Work at The University of Connecticut.

I am also the owner of a fifteen year old husky that I have had since I was a child. That is why I am here today to testify on Bill 6488: An Act Concerning the Evacuation and Temporary Sheltering of Animals During Emergencies. I am for this legislation and I hope that you will support it.

According to a Gallup poll, six out of ten Americans have some type of pet. Often during natural disasters humans evacuate to shelters and hotels that might not take their pets, especially large animals. People may choose not to evacuate and they might put themselves at risk in order to stay with their animals during a disaster. Not providing temporary shelter for pets during natural disasters can become a safety issue for the owner. When returning from school after severe weather, my students often are most concerned about their pets' safety. The children generally feel that their safety is assured but they worry about the pets they've left behind. During Hurricane Sandy, I paid 60 dollars a night for my dog to stay in a boarding facility while I stayed in a hotel. I am fortunate that I could afford to do this and that there was space available at a boarding center that I trust. However, this is not the case for all animals and their owners. The evacuation and temporary sheltering of animals during emergencies deserves your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.



PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 18, 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.

HB 6488 *"An Act Concerning the Evacuation and Temporary Sheltering of Certain Animals During Emergencies"*

This proposal would require that each town and city consider whether to include the sheltering of pets and service animals in their local emergency preparedness plans. Recent emergencies have highlighted the need to enhance the capabilities of local, regional, and state emergency responses – namely in the area of animal sheltering.

To this end, *CCM supports the intent of proposed HB 6488* and urges the Committee to uphold the objective of this proposal, while also ensuring that it does not become another unfunded state mandate on critical municipal resources.

Therefore, CCM urges the Committee to reinforce that HB 6488 would stipulate adequate State support of emergency management resources to municipalities, and to then **favorably report the bill.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Associate of CCM via email mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 500-7556.



Sen. Hartley, Rep. Dargan, Sen. Ayala, Rep. Verrengia, Sen. Guglielmo, Rep. Giegler and other distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this testimony to your committee. My name is Gordon Willard and I am Executive Director of the Connecticut Humane Society. I'm here to testify in support of HB6488, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVACUATION AND TEMPORARY SHELTERING OF CERTAIN ANIMALS DURING EMERGENCIES".

This proposal provides reporting requirements on a state and local level by establishing a protocol for the safe evacuation and sheltering of companion animals during natural disasters.

The Connecticut Humane Society (along with the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association) serves as a resource for town animal control offices looking to shelter (companion) animals during all types of emergencies. Despite this, no plans or reporting requirements are in place to ensure that sufficient shelter space is available throughout the state in the event of (a disaster when) referrals from towns exceed the CHS capacity during an emergency.

HB6488 provides for the necessary planning for companion animals by implementing the following changes:

- Require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to include companion and service animals in their annual report.
- (Reintroduce the requirement to establish, document and provide shelter for companion animals during a disaster.)
- Add protocols for companion and service animals to the local and regional emergency response plans.
- Add local and state animal humane organizations to local planning advisory councils to assist with established protocols.

- Add a category to Local Government Situation forms for the reporting on evacuation measures for sheltering nonmilitary companion and service animals.

Background on Companion Animal Emergency Preparedness in Connecticut

The legislature and Governor approved a bill that required any emergency evacuation plan to include pet evacuation plans under the statutory definition of "civil preparedness". The passage of this act (Public Act 07-11) represents evacuation plans but does not represent requirements for sheltering (of companion animals) or the ability to report on the response provided for companion animals during natural disasters.

CHS has collaboratively collected information on a state, local and private provider level and is confident that this proposal is a strong step in enhancing the coordination amongst emergency responders, animal shelters (and others incorporated into the response protocols.)

Thank you for listening to my testimony and for considering favorably approving HB6488. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding my testimony.