

PA13-255

SB0928

House	9370-9378, 10701-10709	18
Public Safety	679-706, 708-713	34
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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PART 27
9050 – 9390**

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THE CLERK:

H.B.6516 as amended by Senate "A".

(HB6513)

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	4

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 584.

THE CLERK:

On Page 45, Calendar 584, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections, Substitute Senate Bill 928 AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES DEALERS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

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

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill just deals with what the definition of what licensed precious metals or stone dealers would be. I move for its adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill before us really assists law enforcement with better item description reporting and what's needed for identification. It's a good bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam. Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? If not, staff and guests --

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

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Yes, Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

They shut me off, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk is in possession of Senate Amendment "A", LCO Number 6352. May he please call and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan, it's impossible to shut you off.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Right. Right. Right. Yeah. Yeah.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 6352, which has been previously designated Senate Amendment "A". Could you repeat the LCO, sir.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I believe the LCO Number is 6352. May he please call and I be allowed to summarize?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Yes. Will the Clerk please call LCO 6352, which has been designated previously as Senate Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment "A", LCO 6352 introduced by
Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentleman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill, I mean the Amendment just simply talks about the 10-day holding period from statements submission to transaction day and I move for its adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question before the Chamber is adoption. Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of Senate Amendment "A" please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, Nay. Ayes have it. The Amendment
is adopted.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

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Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 8548. May he please call and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8548, which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 8548 introduced by Dargan, Giegler and Nafis.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentleman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This just simply clarifies the definition of precious metals. I move for its adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment "A". Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor of House Amendment "A" please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

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SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The
Amendment is adopted.

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the
bill as amended? Representative Larry Miller of the
122nd.

REP. MILLER (122nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. . Just a quick question.
Does this include pawn shops? Through you, Mr.
Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there has been a
definition of difference of opinion between what a
pawn shop is and what a precious metal dealer is, so
with this bill, we're clarifying that and we're
protecting what precious metals and stone dealers do.
Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER (122nd):

Thank you very much for the answer. Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

One question, through you to the proponent of the Amendment.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Did this now include bullion and coins? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it clarifies that because there is an issue with daily market and how that impacts their business. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd);

It's just my understanding that bullion and coins were omitted from the first bill and now this includes it?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, no, I don't think that's true. It protects the definition of what they actually sell.

. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

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:

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Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? Will the Members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, Representative Sayers, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. And the Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 928 as amended by Senate "A" and "B".

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	139
Those voting Nay	7
Those absent and not voting	4

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 80.

THE CLERK:

On Page 2, House Calendar 80, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Health. House Bill 6389 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Sayers.

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The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

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

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

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

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, S.B. 1060.

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Adoption	74
Those voting aye	141
Those voting nay	5
Absent and not voting	4

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 584.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 584, disagreeing action, favorable report of the joint standing Committee on Government, Administration and Elections, substitute Senate Bill 928, AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS OR STONE

DEALERS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan. The Chamber will stand at ease while we get the bill up on the board.

(Chamber at ease.)

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Okay. Now that the bill is properly on the board, Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, Sir?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification there is not disagreeing action. The bill is before the Senate and the Senate adopted Senate A. It came back to the House, we adopted House A and the bill went back upstairs and at that time

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they adopted Senate B which is LCO number 8782. May we please call? I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8782 which has been previously designated Senate Amendment B.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment B, LCO 8782 as introduced by Senator Fonfara.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The Gentleman has sought leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This amendment simply clarifies the technical changes. It clarifies what the precious metal stone dealers is. I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you. The question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate Amendment B. Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a -- what I hope will be a brief question. In the underlying file

copy and I believe in the earlier amendments the time during which the property had to be held was I think initially ten days then I think it was seven days and now we're -- we're down to five days. And I guess I'm wondering why the trajectory to keep shortening the -- the timeframe? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This is information that came at us from the dealers and thought that the bill would make it more efficient for them. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But it was my understanding and I believe I introduced legislation like this a few years ago to try to deal with some of these issues that the objective was to hold the property a bit longer to give the police a chance to detect the burglary and then check with the various second hand dealers and so on to try to retrieve the property both as evidence and for the benefit of the

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victims. And five days isn't -- excuse me -- doesn't seem like a great deal of time. So again I'm wondering why we moved so far from the ten days. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Because of the severe fluctuation of that market. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Sir. Would you care to remark further on Senate Amendment B? Representative Geigler of the 138th.

REP. GEIGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment actually only changed lines eight and nine from the previous underlying bill so I urge my colleagues' support.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on Senate Amendment

B? Representative Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of a question to the proponent of the legislation.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Sir. In this bill it now allows that the exemption from the requirement is for good cause shown. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Gentleman please describe to me what good cause shown might be?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That's a good question because there's quite a differential between the pawnbroker and what precious metal stone dealers do and this was conversations that we had with the precious metals and stone dealers. They felt that the pawnbrokers was a little different and the type of business that they were in put them at a severe disadvantage.

And with the previous discussion that we had a

week or two ago there was some concern from some legislators about that and this was clarifying the language that they submitted to us. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So through you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification purposes, I know one of the things that has been brought to my attention is that there is a tremendous fluctuation in gold prices. So if a -- a retailer I guess they would be called were to purchase gold from an individual and then were to -- to turn that gold in under the five days because there was the indication that the gold market may be going to drop or -- I'm not sure what would cause -- you know cause you to know that, maybe the stock market or something. But there -- they felt that there was an indicator that was going to cause that gold to have a decrease in its value versus an increase in value. Would that be good cause shown? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you. That is a good example and that's one of the definitions that they came forward with us, the severe fluctuation of the market on a daily basis. But they would still have that reporting mechanism in so place so they would be protected underneath the law. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Sir. And I thank the good Gentleman for his answer.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam. Would you care remark? Would you care to remark further on Senate Amendment B? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of Senate Amendment B please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will

be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Members please return to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all members voted? Have all the members voted? Members please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, S.B. 928 as amended by Senate A and B and House A.

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Adoption	74
Those voting aye	140
Those voting nay	6
Absent and not voting	4

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with the Senate. Will the Clerk please call Calendar 546.

THE CLERK:

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Thank you, Madam President.

If there is no objection, I would request that this be put on the Consent list.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. -- Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Also on Calendar Page 43, Number 153, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 928, AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES DEALERS, Favorable Report from the Committee on Public Safety.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes and good evening again, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

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

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark please?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, thank you very much, Madam President.

This bill is actually the one in a series of legislative proposals which actually came to us in a consolidated fashion from the industry as well as the

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local law enforcement agencies to try to professionalize, streamline and be consistent in the -
- in the industry.

It requires that the precious metal and stone dealers record and retain information about their acquisitions of property. It has requirements which are concerning the property acquisition records and the information that the dealers must supply to the licensing authority which is typically their local PD and it exempts the bullion and coin sales from parts of these new recording and retention requirements for their particular trade in coin and -- and bullion.

Madam President, there is an Amendment that the Clerk is in possession of and that is LCO 6352. I ask that the Clerk please call and that I be granted leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6352, Senate Amendment "A", offered by Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

I move adoption, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes thank you, Madam President.

This is -- this language simply is to clarify that the transaction required by a licensing authority will not require that there be a hold period for anything more

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than 10 days. The purpose of this is that, in some instances, the local licensing agency, a local police department, in some instances, has required up to 30 day hold period on property and the industry, after much discussion, working also with the police associations, have come to what looks to be a very reasonable and workable hold period both for the merchants and also for the law enforcement entities working with them and hopefully this will help for consistency purposes.

Thank you, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, I'll try your minds. All in favor of Senate "A" please say aye.

VOICES:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? Senate "A" has been adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

I'm sorry I'll --

THE CHAIR:

Okay.

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

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If I may, I do have a few questions for the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I believe Senator Hartley said to the Circle that some of these reforms were brought to the Committee by the industry and I'm curious as to how she would define the industry.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President, and if -- if Senator Welch could repeat the question. You're wondering how -- what came in the public testimony, I'm sorry I didn't --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch, would be repeat please?

SENATOR WELCH:

Gladly, Madam President, thank you.

I believe Senator Hartley mentioned that these concepts were brought to the Public Safety Committee from two sources, one being law enforcement and the other being the industry and I'm -- I guess I'm curious as to how she would define the industry.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President, we did have testimony from members who have to work within these licensing parameters, the pawnbrokers, precious metal dealers and also the -- the coin and bullion vendors.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

And -- and so pawnbrokers I would imagine would be one segment or one industry. People who trade in precious metals might be another since they're not pawning or they're not -- or they're trading in other things other than precious metals. If -- if I could just get a better understanding, through you, Madam President, are we talking about pawnbrokers here or are we talking about people who -- who buy and sell gold?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

This was a bill that I felt had great representation and yes indeed we had the precious metal dealers, we had the pawnbrokers, we had Police Chiefs Association.

Through you, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Senator -- Senator Welch.

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SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

In lines -- beginning in line 42 moving on towards the middle of line 43 of the bill, and then this is repeated elsewhere in the bill, there is a requirement that a licensee shall maintain a recordkeeping system in English and I am -- I would just like to know, through you, Madam President, why that requirement is there.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President, to Senator Welch, that actually was previously in statute and I believe it's probably so that there would be some common denominator of working with the local ple -- PDs as well as the industry.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

In -- in the version I'm looking at it's underlined as if it were added language so just if I can get some clarity from Senator Hartley. Does that mean that this requirement is elsewhere in our statutes and -- and that's where it's coming from because in -- in the section we're amending here that looks to be new language to me?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

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SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Madam President, indeed it does, Senator Welch, by virtue of it being underlined. However in our testimony I do recall that there was a conversation that it was recorded in English.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

And -- and I guess I just have one more question, through you, which really goes to legislative intent and this does refer to existing language but since we are requiring some, what I think some might perceive, onerous regulation, I guess I would like to kind of define the scope of who we are talking about and that is beginning in lines 3 -- or line 3 where we say that no person may engage in or carry on the business of purchasing gold or gold-plated ware, et cetera, I -- could -- could this apply to a person who goes to an estate sale and happens to find something that fits the descriptions in the preceding lines and then turns around and -- and sells it or are we talking about something different here?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes through you, Madam President, to Senator Welch, first of all I should probably mention that any of these requirements can be waived or exempt. And in fact that's really what does happen on a local basis where you have the local law enforcement agency very familiar with vendors and businesses in their community and they may say, you know, I don't want it, I don't need to get a report from you, I -- those kinds of things.

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So all of these are by virtue of what the relationship is with the local enforcement agency, the local PD, but because of that we -- where I think I may have mentioned a bit earlier some of them perhaps were overly aggressive with regard to the -- the hold period and this is a business and we have to support our small businesses that we wanted to have some kind of a reasonable standard and so that's where the -- you know -- the purpose of this was to try to establish the ten days.

And so with regard to an estate sale, and by the way I love antiquing and those kinds of things and particularly here in New England there's great tevor - - treasure trove and this is really about businesses. That is really not a business.

Thank you.

Through you, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I -- I appreciate -- I appreciate Senator Hartley making that very clear for all of us and then those that may be reading this transcript one day.

I -- I understand that the business of buying and selling gold has taken off. I mean you can't help but to turn on the TV or the radio and -- and you're bound to, within some period of time, see an advertisement for buying gold. And -- and I appreciate that that is, in part, driven by the high prices that we've seen over the last two years, although those seem to have subsided.

And I have to confess that this bill wasn't even on my radar screen until very recently when I received a phone call from an individual who operates three stores that will now fall within these regulations and

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one of which is the 31st District and confided in our office that, should this become law, he will be closing two of those three stores, one of those two being in the 31st District.

I appreciate the need to help law enforcement make sure that people aren't robbing homes or -- or coming up with these items in -- in some illicit way and then turning them into cash through brokers like this but I'm very concerned when the solution that we've proposed will be closing doors in the 31st District.

So for that reason I will not be voting for this bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, some questions to the proponent through you.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

I was also contacted by a -- a coin dealer in my district and in conversations I've had with others as -- as well as yourself the way I -- at least the way I interpret it is they're already supposed to be licensed under the existing law reflected here in Section 1. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam -- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Through you, Mr. President, yes indeed, Senator Chapin, you are correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so it looks like the -- the bill intends to treat coin dealers who specifically only deal with coins and currency I assume a little differently. Can the proponent tell me what those differences may be?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, through you, Madam President, you are absolutely right, Senator Chapin. We had very detailed testimony from the coin and bullion dealers. I think they clearly articulated their position and also the distinction between their -- that particular business, if it's solely coin and bullion or when they are dealing with -- if they are precious metal and they are dealing with coin and bullion it is -- it's a different market.

And a hold period for them would, in fact, very much compromise their business and also the sale and the purchase of -- of those items, coin and bullion, so for that purpose they were exempt from the hold period in this bill, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

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SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And again, through you, it's also my understanding that there's a -- a photograph requirement of some of the things under this bill. I -- am I correct in thinking that the coin dealers are relieved from that requirement as well?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes through you, Madam President, the -- the requirement for the coin and bullion dealers, and we had talked about this because I wanted to be certain about how this was intended to go forward, was to try to recognize that a coin or a bullion dealer perhaps would have someone who walked in the door with 1,000 coins, 500 coins or whatever, and in the recording and the identification process it would indicate that you are doing this by item.

And so for the intention of this legislation would be to -- because they have to right now, to your point, they are under this licensing requirement, would be to make their notations by virtue of transaction and so one transaction could include 1,000 coins or 500 coins. It could include one coin and -- and, therefore, if I am to be selling those coins to you, Senator Chapin, you would ask for my identification and I would have to show you something with a picture on it and you would probably look at the picture and say ah that's not Hartley that's Markley and then you would turn me away or maybe you would say send Markley in and I'll buy from Markley.

But anyhow the purpose is to know who you are purchasing from, and of course this goes back to the law enforcement issue, and -- and then also to record the transaction, not to ask me as a vendor to make

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1,000 notations or 500 but just one transaction with the name, the address, they ask for a birth date which typically is on a license so that you in fact know -- or I in fact know who I'm -- I'm purchasing from and then you put the date and the time on it.

These, as I understand it, are requirements that generally existed under these licenses to begin with.

Thank -- thank you, Madam President, through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And again through you, so under the recordkeeping portion of the bill where the record must be kept in English and be consecutively numbered, I guess under your scenario that would be no different than maybe if you go to a diner and get an order and they -- they hand you the bill. It probably has a pre-printed number on it but in your scenario then the description would only have -- it wouldn't be consecutive numbering of each coin, it would just be one consecutively numbered receipt for that group of coins. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes through you, Madam President, indeed it's for the transaction, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

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If I -- excuse me, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Oops sorry, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

If I came back the next day, that would be another transaction.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Sorry, Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And under the reporting requirement I guess now they're required to report, upon request and under this bill, they would be required to report weekly and that could be electronically?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes indeed and so, you know, technology we should use it to make our lives easier. Where an individual has the ability to report electronically, and some prefer to do that, it may be more expedient for them to do that. However if a local licensing authority required an electronic reporting, then the vendor I'm assuming would have to meet the requirements because once again the -- they are the licensing authority.

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However in our discussion and hearing from all of the parties, we never had any such instances because the local licensing authorities really work very -- they know their vendors. Many times these are vendors who have been there a long time or they may even be, you know, a second generation in the business and so they -- some of them don't even want these reports and, if that is the case, then they do -- they are exempt from the report. They -- they, the vendor, simply has to, you know, make the notation when a person comes in anyway so that they -- they do have it. But they don't have to submit it if, in fact, the lo -- the local licensing authority does not want it.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And I thank the good Chairwoman for her answers.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Seeing none, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President, I would ask for a roll call vote, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Okay, at this point, Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the

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Senate. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

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:

Senate Bill 928 as amended.

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those Voting Yea	30
Those Voting Nay	6
Those Absent and not Voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Calendar Page 41, Calendar Number 107, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 917, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND GRUB CONTROL PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, Favorable Report from the Environmental Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer, good evening, sir.

SENATOR MEYER:

Good evening, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the Committee's Joint and Favorable Report and move passage of this bill.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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If not, would you like to -- Mr. Clerk, would you call for a roll call vote and 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 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 call a tally please.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6374

Total Number Voting	34
Those voting Yea	21
Those voting Nay	13
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 21, Calendar 153, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 928, AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES DEALERS, it's as amended, and it's a favorable report of the Committee on Public Safety and Security.

(Senator Duff of the 25th in the Chair.)

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 in concurrence with the House, as amended by Senate "A" and amended by House "A."

THE CHAIR:

In concurrence, will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, indeed, Mr. President.

And being true to form here, the Clerk has -- is in possession of an amendment, it is LCO 8782, and I asked that the Clerk please call and I be granted leave to summarize, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 8782, Senate "B," offered by Senator Hartley.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, I move adoption, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

This has been a very long road with very -- with a number of participants from the industries. The ultimate goal was to establish a uniform standard. And in an effort to get it absolutely perfectly right we now have what is designated as Senate "B" before us.

And what that does is reinforce, of course, what we previously did and that was to exempt the bullion and coin dealers to establish a hold period, and now we definitely have agreement from all in the industry for the -- the five-day hold period, except for the bullion and coin dealers.

And in lines 8 and 9, the further qualifying language so that we're absolutely clear about this that a licensing authority, that would be a local PD, may grant exceptions from the requirement of the subsection for good cause. So, in English, that would mean that your local PD has a great relationship with a precious metals dealer and does not -- and gives them exemptions from the -- these sections as we know it. I move adoption.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Madam.

Will you remark further on the amendment?

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you, Mr. President

Just a quick chairman to the -- the good -- quick question rather to the good chairlady of Public Safety.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Madam Chair, if you could, I just wanted to know what change the House amendment made to the original version of the bill?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam -- Mr. President.

And through you to Senator Guglielmo, since Senate Amendment "A" when we had talked for a long time in committee, lots of testimony about saying we wanted to establish a uniform hold period and we came up with no more than 10 days, the House Amendment, lo and behold, came up with a definitive date and that is of five days, a uniform standard, and that was their -- their very significant contribution.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Through you, Mr. President.

Thank you very much, Madam Chairlady, and I also want to take a minute to just thank the chairlady for including me as a ranking member in all the deliberations and also to Chairman Dargan. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment?

If not, I'll try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Weak.

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

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

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

If there is no objection and we have a Consent Calendar, I would move that it go on the Consent -- oh -- immediately transmitted, yes, downstairs. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank --

Senator Linares, do you want to -- you object to the Consent Calendar? Okay.

Mr. Clerk, please announce the pendency roll call vote. 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 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be closed, and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 928 as amended

Total Number Voting	34
Those voting Yea	31
Those voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of the -- just to bring action on calendar page 21, Calendar 153, Senate Bill 928 as amended.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
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REP. KUPCHICK: So are you against adding those foams to the Connecticut list or just against the certification requirement?

MARGARET GORMAN: We are -- we would be opposed if they were added in as we were last year opposed and it was eventually vetoed by the governor. If they were added into these certification requirements.

REP. KUPCHICK: Okay, thank you.

MARGARET GORMAN: Sure.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you Representative. Further questions for Margaret? Seeing none, thanks for being with us. So we will now invite Jay Sargent. Connecticut Association of Pawn Brokers. Jay? Manchester and Waterbury?

JAY SARGENT: Yes. Good afternoon Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley --

SENATORY HARTLEY: Good afternoon.

JAY SARGENT: -- other distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee. It's good to see you again. My name is Jay Sargent. I represent the Connecticut Association of Pawn Brokers and I am in support of raised Bill 928. I am a partner with TC's Pawn Company Jewelry and Electronics in Waterbury and I'm also the president of the Pawn Brokers Association. For many, many years now it seems though we've been here revisiting the issue of precious metals and stones statutes. As licensed pawn brokers our members are all also licensed precious metal and stone dealers. One of the main purposes of Bill 928 as it was with Public Act 1100 is to curb defensing of stolen goods. A large -- a majority of businesses in

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our industry have been working together for many years with law enforcement towards the recover of stolen jewelry by reasonable holding periods, identification of persons, and now taking photographic records of items that come in. We feel that 92 -- Bill 928 is a continuation of our efforts of -- from that public act.

In discussions from -- over the last year because this bill was obviously at a bill last year regarding the same issues -- it's come to my understanding that last year all interested parties had sort of agreed on something and then we had some other issues towards the end, which I'm sure you'll hear from speak -- people testifying today --

SENATOR HARTLEY: I remember.

JAY SARGENT: -- We're -- as our association is in support of the bill we're also not afraid to step out of the side lines a little bit and have maybe an exemption in the bill possibly for coins or bullions. You know as far as the holding periods are concerned. From what I remember last year that was the largest concern that the opposition had were holding periods on coins and bullions We understand that as commodity -- you know -- the prices do fluctuate. Most -- I'd say random thefts that occur that the law enforcement are investigating are not for coins and bullions it's for generally jewelry or precious metal, other stones and I'm sorry I'll try to conclude quickly.

SENATOR HARTLEY: I would just ask you do you have anything else to say?

JAY SARGENT: That pretty much sums it up.

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SENATOR HARTLEY: I just say that will give you an opening.

JAY SARGENT: The holding period -- a lot of towns in Connecticut have zero holding periods because they don't -- they basically mill everything they buy off the street down the same day they buy it. Whereas some towns such as Waterbury, we do have a five day holding period and it helps law enforcement recovers a lot of property and return it to victims of crime which is really what the bill is about. It's reporting, identifying and recovery of stolen property if possible and that's really what the bill is about and -- I think it's great for the law enforcement and for all victims and on a personal note on the bill I always feel as a business person for 25 years in this business that people are more important than money and when somebody has something stolen they should have all opportunities to try to recover that and that's what the bill addresses. I'm open to any questions if anybody has any.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thanks, thank you very much for being back again with us Jay, questions from committee members? Yes, Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO: Thank you Madam Chair. I'm just trying to understand the bill. You know I'm familiar with TC Pawn so there's a difference between when you're purchasing some -- when you're pawning or buying something like a stereo system there is a different criteria then jewelry --

JAY SARGENT: Yes there is.

REP. D'AMELIO: -- or precious --

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JAY SARGENT: When we purchase jewelry we're actually operating under our precious metal license. So, therefore currently in law there are different statutes and regulation regarding that. Bill 928 actually kind of brings it all together with similar regulation and procedures such as photographing, record keeping and holding periods.

REP. D'AMELIO: So presently there's no requirements when you're buying precious metals or jewelry?

JAY SARGENT: Under state law there's not. Many municipalities and cities have created an ordinance or part of the permit process for precious metal license as Waterbury did approximately -- I'd say 15 years ago where they did create a five day hold on all items basically that's purchased and that includes jewelry. Of many towns I -- I -- off the top of my head I could say Wallingford, Cromwell - - these towns they have zero holding periods where as they could just melt the gold in the back room as soon as they buy it basically they (inaudible) -- you know and we're not opposed like I said as far as coin and bullion because I know that's a big issue with the bill where as in -- so holding cuts more of a commodity -- it's not something that's commonly stolen in a ring of theft so if there's a holding period exempted coins and bullion per say -- you know, we wouldn't be opposed to that which we feel would settle a lot of dismay with the development.

REP. D'AMELIO: Is there a -- a different license for coins and bullions?

JAY SARGENT: I believe currently they all operate under precious metal and stone because they are considered precious metal.

REP. D'AMELIO: Many people that deal in -- in the coin industry probably they deal in precious metal like jewelry and all that but there's no requirement on their part to hold it. Like, if there's a robbery that occurs, a break in in a home that occurs in a town the police naturally would probably go to a pawn shop or -- you know jewelry place to figure out -- you know if they -- if they obtained that stuff but you can flip that stuff quickly?

JAY SARGENT: As a precious metal dealer with no holding period, yes you can.

REP. D'AMELIO: And who -- who would be the authority in the town, is it the police department that you're licensed through? Like -- who -- that reports would have to go to? Because I know in the bill it says that the reporting of a local license -- licensing authority like in Waterbury it would be the Waterbury Police Department that you send your reports to?

JAY SARGENT: Yes we send them weekly to the Waterbury Police Department. The police chief may require a holding period as part of the permit process or may not. Basically, his decision or our town may pass an ordinance within the town requiring a holding period which some towns have done but throughout the state it's kind of scattered and aside we -- what we're looking to do is create -- what's our continuity among all the dealers in Connecticut.

REP. D'AMELIO: Thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you Representative D'Amelio. So Jay, have there been any like critiques which show that those municipalities

that do not have a holding period have like spikes in their business cycle?

JAY SARGENT: I don't know if there's actually any studies done on that. I -- from personal experience I can say that since the time we had a holding period initiated in Waterbury approximately 10 or 15 years ago there was no increase or decrease in our business at all and there really wasn't a real increase or decrease in the amount of property that may have been confiscated as being stolen but what it does is it gives the opportunity to do so if need be, as do the photographs that are also in this bill.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Now this particular aspect of this subject has been -- was that in the master bill that we adapted -- I'm going to say, three years ago?

JAY SARGENT: Yes, I believe it was three maybe even four years ago.

SENATOR HARTLEY: And then so that was taken out because -- is it primarily because of this conversation about the exemption on -- on coin and bullion?

JAY SARGENT: I believe a lot of the opposition over the years has been focused on coins and bullion. We have many dealers in the state that do exclusively deal with coins and bullion and there's an understanding that you know they're not really parts of random thefts that may occur. And the money that's involved as a commodity needs to move quicker or else there could be great losses of -- you know revenue. A lot of the coin and bullion dealers do purchase jewelry off the street from the general public -- you know we feel that those items should be held you know. So

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the exemption that I'm speaking of is basically just for coins and bullion. They're not for any other jewelry that you know may be bought off the street.

SENATOR HARTLEY: What's Waterbury's hold, Jay?

JAY SARGENT: It's currently five days from the date of report in.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So you -- then this is establishing a -- a feeling of at least or a threshold that needs ten.

JAY SARGENT: Yes this is --

SENATOR HARTLEY: Right --

JAY SARGENT: -- actually increasing

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- (Inaudible) double

JAY SARGENT: -- holding period for myself, yes --

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yes.

JAY SARGENT: You know and there's talk of well -- and I'm sure you'll hear it today that -- you know, pawn broker type businesses pay a lot less than this dealer and that dealer which isn't necessarily true. Jewelry dealers as a whole there's a variety of different prices they may pay and then maybe any -- maybe anywhere from 60 percent up to 90 percent of whoever's top price may be. There's always a risk when you're dealing with any type of commodity.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Right. So -- so what we're talking about is doubling the hold and making it at least a uniform threshold throughout the state.

JAY SARGENT: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Okay. Questions or comments?
Jay thanks a lot for being -- what's that? --
again -- and we appreciate your testimony and
also that you gave us written testimony.

JAY SARGENT: Thank you I appreciate your time
today.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So next we will invite Bob
Walter, a coin dealer.

BOB WALTER: Good afternoon. I'd like to thank the
Chair and the committee for the opportunity to
be here today. I also am speaking on House
Bill 928: AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS
FOR STONE DEALERS and I am speaking in
opposition to that. I've emailed each member
of this committee this week with my arguments
as to why I feel as Jay does as coins and
precious metal -- coins and bullion should be
exempt from this bill. Now I'd like to just
take a moment to talk about the implications
of the record keeping component of this bill
in subsection D,E,F and K. Now when a
customer comes into my store in Westport
they'll bring their material in: coins,
collectables, precious metals, whatever it
might be. We'll sort it out, we'll relist
each one individually, figure out a price. If
the customer decides they want to sell it then
according to this Statute 21-100 that we work
under we get an acceptable form of
identification, fill out the customer's name,
address, their driver's license number, their
age, their height, their weight, the date, the
time of sale and the check number that we have
made payment on. That is how our normal
transaction works. The way that this record
keeping is set up though says that going

forward every individual item would need to be serially numbered, identified by a number, photographed, listed separately, held for ten days and then at the end of the ten day period when the material was disposed of we would have to go back into the records and declare how each one of those individual items was disposed of. Did it go to the refinery? Was it put in our retail store? Did we sell it on ebay? Whatever the case might be. This -- the implications of this record keeping -- really it's going to end up putting us out of business. It's either going to put us out of business or it's going to decrease the amount of money we're able to pay our customers to the point that they'll take their business elsewhere. They will take their business to people that don't abide by the law or they will take it out of state. They might bring it to New York or Massachusetts or they might just ship it out of state. And I thought as an example if I was to say that this afternoon the members of this committee were to go home and say that guy from Westport was pretty nice I'm going to look through my jewelry box and I'm going to stop down there with a few items to sell and each one of the 25 members of the committee came down, sold me ten items and I went through obeying this new law listed each one individually, paid you, set that aside, two weeks later went through and listed how I disposed of them: which ones went to the refinery, which ones went to ebay or for sale in my store or wholesale through a dealer -- out of those 250 items from the committee, how many of those would you presume are stolen? I'd presume probably none. And if this happened with the same amount of jewelry or pieces coming from the entire general assembly -- if all 187 members brought ten pieces into my store out of those 1,870 items how many of them would turn out to be stolen? In 2012 my

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company wrote 8,000 purchase checks in our store. In 2011 we wrote over 12,000. That's twenty thousand checks in the last two years - - and each one of those invoice would have been much more than ten items. In the last two years I've had inquiries from law enforcement agencies in Stamford, Norwalk, Westport, Fairfield, Milford, Danbury, West Haven, New Haven and probably a few others that I didn't have the business cards from when I figured out this list. Out of those inquiries which we complied with completely we did not have a single item that was stolen. We did not do business with one, we did not have any items that had been taken or reported stolen. If each of those 20,000 checks contained ten items that I had to list that would be 200,000 items to keep track of for no reason and the result of this is just going to be -- it's creating more work and it's taking money out of the pocket out of Connecticut citizens and residents. I called the Industry of Tangible Assets in Washington, D.C. and asked them to review this bill and in doing so they told me that that part of the proposed bill -- there is no similar reporting in any state or municipality that they're aware of. I -- I do feel that coins and bullion should be relieved from this bill. I certainly know that I would agree with Jay. Our main goal is to see to it that anyone that is victimized is made whole in one way or another but we find its compliance with the existing bills and the existing law and it is enforcement of the existing law that will do that best, not just writing another law that's not going to be complied with and not going to be enforced.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you very much for being with us and also to weighing in on this. Questions yes, Representative D'Amelio?

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REP. D'AMELIO: Thank you Madam Chair. Again just to try to get a better understanding of your business, thanks to the good representative here I just found out what bullions are. And I understand the coin part of it I mean -- you know coins -- last year I remember being part of this public hearing and coins are a whole different ent -- you know -- entity, quick sale. It's a quick turn around. The only thing is with jewelry I mean -- I understand the dilemma of the record keeping but do you have any type of record keeping on all of your purchases now? I mean do you itemize --

BOB WALTER: Yes we -- Every item that we purchase is itemized on an invoice, it's done in triplicate. One copy remains with us on file for ten years before we get rid of anything. One copy goes to the customer and one copy goes to the Westport Police Department. This is the best system that we worked out with Westport. As Jay said, it's a state law but it's up to the municipalities to determine how they -- what kind of reporting they want, how they want to find out and follow up on material. I sat down with the chief years ago, we continue to refine this and they get a copy of every individual transaction that we do. And as you asked about the jewelry, we have a precious metals buying license because in addition to bullion, gold and silver bars we do purchase scrap jewelry and I understand the need for the reporting for that and the record keeping and the tracking of that but the reason I'm bringing up the disposition of it is that just doesn't seem to add anything in there.

REP. D'AMELIO: But I'm a little confused because it seems like you are doing everything that's required except the photographs, am I wrong? What will this bill force you to do that

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you're not doing now on the jewelry side of your purchase?

BOB WALTER: If you stopped into my store now and you brought in a little baggie of scrap gold. We're going to sit down -- someone's going to sort through it with you and they're going to separate it by karat and test what they need to. And then they are going to take a broken change and a high school ring and a pair of cufflinks that may all be 14 karat gold and put it on the scale, weight it and then record that weight and then the price for the 14 karat. The way that this bill says -- the way this bill is written -- it says that I would have to take that chain I would have to identify that chain. If it had your initials engraved on it, I would have to write your initials on that one particular item down. If it didn't have any identifying marks on it I would have to assign it a unique identification number and then do the same with the ring, and then do the same with the cufflink, record all of these, individually photograph them, and maintain those records and after ten business days -- and I begin to dispose of this -- and 95 percent of what we buy is shipped to a refinery, I would then have to go back and match up those items so that the amount of work that is involved and the record keeping is overwhelming and it appears to be for no good reason. It also has in this proposed bill that I have to go back and track each item that I purchase and mark down where and how I sold it unless I sell it retail in my store and then there's no record keeping. So it's almost adding in this tremendous second layer of labor that in the end doesn't accomplish anything.

REP. D'AMELIO: So the way you're doing it now you mentioned a bunch of police departments that -

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- that inquired about some of the purchases in your place if you had certain items is sufficient enough? I mean, your able to help them if you don't have -- if you're not -- you know -- putting down every single piece of merchandise specifically on different -- you know -- markings or whatever -- you're able to help the police departments determine that you don't have any of that stolen --

BOB WALTER: I would almost have to refer you the police departments. They call us up. They will many times they will call us directly instead of going through the Westport detectives because they know how quickly they will respond to them. I had a phone call last week from a detective. We went back to January 1st to look through -- for the type of material that they were looking for and for two specific names that they had and yes, we have been in business for 52 years. We've always -- the problem that we have is that we always play by the rules. If you implement this law I'm going to have to figure out some way to do it. The money that it's going to cost is not going to be coming out of my pocket -- well it will in the way of lost revenue but it will be coming out of the customer's pocket. But yes I feel that if this law -- and from taking to different detectives -- and we have a very good working relationship with every police department -- I think that the way that we do it is -- is more than adequate.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you Representative D'Amelio and thank you, Bob. Other questions? Comments?

REPRESENTATIVE DARGAN: Just the one question I had. I don't know if it was something in southeastern Connecticut we're trying to pawn

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Representative Orange off but we weren't getting any good pricing. So maybe if we go to Fairfield County she'll be getting more money down there, I'm not sure but thank you very much for your testimony

SENATOR HARTLEY: We'll strike that. Yes Representative Clemons, I think there's a question.

REP. CLEMONS: Thank you Madam Chair. Good afternoon Sir, just a quick question. When you mentioned if this bill was to pass and be implemented you would have an adverse impact on your business. You said no monetarily in terms of your business but onto the seller of the goods. Could you tell us how that is that they would incur the cost of or the list.

BOB CLEMONS: Certainly and actually it would have it -- a monetary impact on my business because people would do less business with me. I would have to figure the time and the cost of doing this record keeping into my overhead. You're talking -- when you look at the way this is set up here we would probably need to spend three to four times the amount of time we do currently with each transaction. In addition when I have to hold the material for ten business days I'm going to have to factor in additional insurance, additional security, additional safes and when I add all of those into our overhead someone has to pay for that and it's going to be the consumer instead of offering to pay a customer \$38 a pennyweight for 14 karat gold I'm going to have to go in and say I can only pay you \$32 a pennyweight and if it wasn't scrap gold, if it was American gold eagle coins right now -- and in my email I used in that illustration -- I pay \$1,600 for a one ounce American gold eagle coin and I turn that over for a 45 dollar

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profit. Now there's not a lot of businesses invest pay that \$1,600 to make \$45. Now if I have to hold that for ten days and all the different costs involved and not have control of that piece I am going to have to lower my price. So instead of offering \$1,600 maybe I offer \$1,500. Well if you have 10 one ounce gold eagles and you can sell it to me for \$1,500 or you can sell it into New York for \$1,600 you are going to go to New York and that's how it would impact the consumer and of course that's going to end up impacting me because I'm just not going to be doing the business.

REP. CLEMONS: Thank you very much.

BOB CLEMONS: And I would just ask that if you haven't read the email and I thank a couple of the Representatives and Senator that responded to me, I do I think I have a pretty good argument as to why coins and bullion should be removed from this bill.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thanks Bob. I haven't seen the email did it -- when did you send it off?

BOB CLEMONS: I sent it on Tuesday morning.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Okay, so that doesn't mean it's not there. This committee being and having the subject matter that it does, there's a pile.

BOB CLEMONS: Uh huh.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, further questions? If not thanks for being with us and we are going to invite Allen Berman. Also, on SB 28 -- 2 -- 928.

ALLEN BERMAN: Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman, Committee. My name is Allen G. Berman. I am

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a nationally recognized (inaudible) writer and editor. I've worked as a professional in this business since 1981 and I'm here to oppose raised Bill 928. This bill requires the holding period for ten days after the submission of a weekly statement. That is 10 to 17 days. The typical turn over on bullion coins is anywhere from thirty minutes to a couple days. Gold can and has dropped in value by six to seven percent in a span of 14 days. Silver can and has dropped by two to three percent over the course of six hours. The short term value of bullion coins is unstable. The profit margin on coins such as a US gold eagle or a Canadian maple leaf can be one to four percent. Coin dealers do not earn their living by speculating, but by buying and selling under the same market conditions. Over the span of 10 to 17 days the change in market can easily exceed the profits on the coin. If this bill is passed dealers will need to buy from the public at sharply discounted rates to cover their increased risk. To apply a similar restriction to holders of stalks would be inconceivable but this is an analogous situation. Obviously knowledgeable collectors and wealthy investors will opt to sell their holdings out of state. The average citizen disposing of his childhood coin collection or the family selling Grandpa's silver dollars will have to accept that in Connecticut dealers pay less. The ironic thing is that these standards are designed for antiques and jewelry, no coins. Most 19th century coins are no more individually identifiable than those in your pockets. They are generally lost in bulk. This bill requires a photographic record and the recording of individual dates of items purchased. The most common coins --

SENATOR HARTLEY: Did you have other things?

ALLEN BERMAN: Yes I was --

SENATOR HARTLEY: Go ahead.

ALLEN BERMAN: The most common coins purchased by coin shops are wheat back cents, as an average of two cents each. A common silver dime is worth about two dollars with a ten percent profit. Dealers would have to decline these items rather than pay employees more than the coins are worth to photograph them and record their dates. More than once I have seen layman turned away from shops because the paperwork would exceed the profits. Telling people to go spend their wheat pennies and silver dimes does not do the public good. Laying off employees formally assigned to buy those inexpensive coins does not either. This bill was in large designed for antiques and jewelry. Perhaps it is practical for large and expensive items but this is not representative of the coin industry. It seems if it passes without deleting the phrase bullion or coins the primary result will be to move the business of buying coins out of state or worse underground.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, questions from members of the committee? Thank you very much. Did you submit written testimony to us?

ALLEN BERMAN: Written? No, I did --

SENATOR HARTLEY: Okay.

ALLEN BERMAN: -- but I'd be happy to do so if requested.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Well it's up to you. I was just looking to see and I didn't read anything --

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jar/mb/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY 12:00 P.M.
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ALLEN BERMAN: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- but thanks for your message,
it was very clear and your examples were
instructive. Thanks much.

ALLEN BERMAN: You're welcome.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So next person is Harold Kritzman
--

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- in Newington. On Senate Bill
928.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Yes. My name is Harold Kritzman.
I am president of Old Town Coin Company on the
Berlin Turnpike in Newington, Connecticut.
And just from the point of historical
presidents here I and Chester Morgan,
representative from Vernon where the people
that authored 21-100 in 1980 so you can say I
am the grandfather of this bill as it was
manifested back then and modeled as it was in
how we were doing business since we
incorporated in this state in 1977. I want to
bring something up to you which probably would
get into your pocket exactly. We don't
advertise. Not one penny is spent on
television, newspapers. We rely on word of
mouth and the way we do that is because we pay
what is referred to as fair market value. Now
let me make something clear we give you
nothing for your gold, silver or platinum.
Giving is a gift. What we do is a monetary
exchange. You come in with gold, silver or
platinum you expect fair market exchange in
good legal tender and that's what we
accomplish. We make our reputation on working
in very very low margins. You have to be
competitive. I've been in business long

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enough -- and this is my 43rd year in business -- that I have a good understanding of who my clients are and when they come back to do repeat business with me. As a repeat customer coming back to me with that old high school ring or that college ring you no longer wear why should I have to say to you that I can't pay you fair market value for that wedding ring because I have to hold it for ten days or five days or two days.

The market today as I just looked at my telephone has gone down twenty three dollars an ounce and in the type of margins that I work on that's a loss. So why should you be penalized because you want to sell something there is no doubt is your property? Now being in business as long as I have I can pretty much know who my clientele is. And, I have literally told people to leave my store, rather than to do business with them because I just don't want to get involved with things that have a questionable nature. I don't have to. I am in business because -- not because I have to be -- because I want to be. Anyway, having fathered this bill and -- and again at the time it was initially proposed it did include a holding period and I convinced Chester Morgan at that time that having a holding period did not accomplish anything. What we needed and how we did it was to have good records that were available to the police without need of a search warrant which was something I questioned at that particular time and that we would request all of the local police to supply us with hot sheets which in the beginning seemed to work and then all of a sudden it all petered out and we received nothing. Now that all those sheets and copies of our bills of sale get looked at once a week by detectives as they were for the first several months. It's overhead to the police.

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They talk about how and whether not it's beneficial to spend this amount of man power and 99 percent of the time -- and this is 40 years of experience -- it is not, you will not recover that lost ring. In fact my own store was burglarized. They hauled out almost 300 pounds of coins I could not put in my vault and not one Lincoln cent, Buffalo nickel or anything else was ever recovered. It disappeared, 300 pounds and I have perfect records and everything else. So what I'm saying to you is good record keeping -- we already do it now. We don't deal with minors, we pay only by check -- and by the way that was something we initiated because -- remember that famous bank robber that says why do I rob banks? Because that's where the money is. Just think about this: I do six figures sometimes a week in business. If I had to put that in a vault, in a period of ten days I would require armed guards to protect me each and every day that came and left my store and they would be in my store during the time in which work was being done because I would be a hit. That's the primary reason I said way back in 1980 I didn't want to pay in cash. The amount of cash I'd have to have on hand would make me more formidable as a robbery than a bank because I'd have less of the protection. So let me just sum this all up by saying to you: we have 21-100. It has worked, and has worked for decades. Every single time they put this bill together into a huge computer somewhere in the sky it combines us with pawn brokers and second hand dealers. We're not pawn brokers, we are not second had dealers. We deal in fair market value. Pawn brokers are very happy to keep things for a while because their primary source of income is interest on items they hope don't get claimed after thirty days or what have you. Now the precious metals that they buy --

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nobody is melting them in the back room. I have yet to see a single buying operation set up where they had a smelter in the back room melting their goods. They all accumulate it when it's sufficiently enough to have a melt. IT cost money to have things melted in a safe. You can't just send ten gold rings off. You have to send the equivalent of what we refer to as hundreds of penny weights or the yielding of at least ten ounces or more before it becomes cost worthy to even have it melted. So most of us do accumulate to some extent but it's our right to do so and to speculate the way we have to do but as I told people earlier we are businessmen, and some of us very longstanding. We're not gamblers. If we want to gamble we go to the casino. That's a hell of a way to get rid of your money much quicker. But with the market switching as it has now -- and it's changed over a \$100 an ounce just in the last ten days -- no business can stay in business that's paying -- as each document -- he talked about margins -- I work sometimes in as little as two percent in the size of the transactions that are involved that is prohibitive to becoming anything other than a business man. We must be able to turn over our money or before long -- for not there won't be any good guys to sell your gold and silver to. Thank you very much for hearing me Madam Chairman and the rest of the committee. Any questions? Believe me. Oh by the way, I offer my services for the rewriting of this bill as I did for Chester Morgan decades ago so maybe we can get it right. I sat in committee with a number of representatives including the jewelry industry a year ago with Bob. We spent hours and hours. We're taken away from our business being here. We're not sending a lawyer or a lobbyist. We are here away from our business to talk to you because

that's how important it is. Any questions please?

SENATOR HARTLEY: Well thank you Harold. And it's an honor to meet the father that generated the proposed bill --

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- and you got a lot of staying power Sir.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Yes and that's because again: we are known by our reputation. You don't stay in business without advertising without having a good reputation.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yes so you're not one of those guys on television showing the exchange of dollar bills.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: No in fact that was one of the reasons -- if you notice in the last re-writing of the bill we said that the showing of cash and payment should be prohibited.

SENATOR HARTLEY: It -- which -- it says

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Because it --

SENATOR HARTLEY: -- now but I do still see it.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Yes well we talk about enforcement and that's a whole other --

SENATOR HARTLEY: Right.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: -- layer to the problem we have

SENATOR HARTLEY: Right.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: I just want to bring something else up to you. Every so many weeks a large add appears in the Hartford Courant, and it's about a buyer from Maine who advertises that he will buy everything including your grandfather's swords from World War II and he comes in from Maine and he visits you in your home. Is he licensed? I don't know. Can we control out of state merchants coming in and going to private homes? I don't believe so. So there will always be an avenue for the liquidation of stolen goods no matter what we do. We try to make it better, I agree but we're not going to plug those holes, there's always a way and as you said out of state, back allies, the guys that pay in cash. As they say those -- the law abiding obey the laws, those who don't obey the laws are not going to obey any new ones.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thanks a lot.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Thank you very much.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Questions?

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Any questions? Thank you. Go ahead.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Represent --

REP. D'AMELIO: Thank you Madam Chair. You said that -- you know when you buy gold it fluctuates daily.

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Yes it does.

REP. D'AMELIO: So like if you hold it for five days or you have to accumulate it to get a certain amount of weight am I missing the point here? It seems like you have to hold it anyways --

HAROLD KRITZMAN: It --

REP. D'AMELIO: -- to make money on it --

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Yes

REP D'AMELIO: -- or to sell it --

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Depends on the quantity. Now I had a lady who was a very good gambler and every time she would gamble she would buy herself a nice pretty piece of jewelry and she continued to hold that jewelry until the day it was no longer lucky to her and she'd sell it. When I tell you, she came in one day with almost \$15,000 worth of jewelry. She was a very successful gambler but she also lost a lot. She should have the opportunity -- and I have the opportunity -- to give her fair market value and I did indeed turn that over. Now I don't do it in the back room, it goes to a smelter for which I have contracts with. You have to hedge this market in order to stay profitable. I have to have so much other product back me up when I buy or when I sell so I keep an average amount of value in terms of precious metals in my inventory. That's the way you do it, it's -- it's like anything else but -- just to bring up another idea: your IBM stock, you decide you want to sell because today you're finally going to break even. You go to your stock broker and he says surrender your stock sir and yes, it's the 28th, ten days from today we'll put it at market for you. Would you walk over with the stock and say thank you very much or say what is it going to be ten days from now when it's down \$20 more. It's the same concept when people invest in gold or want to sell their gold. They're entitled to fair market value and I am very happy to beat a competitor. He says \$38 an ounce -- as of today I was paying

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a little bit more -- but that's neither here nor there -- that's a good general high market value for the precious, let's say 14 karat gold today. I know we're having a buying operation, there's four of them on the Berlin Turnpike, they're in competition with me and one gentlemen just came and said: what did you just offer me? -- I said: Yes -- They offered me less than half just down the street -- well that's why you're here and you'll never go down the street again. That's the nature of my business. I don't advertise, I don't put billboards up. They know when they come to me I will tell them exactly what it weighs, what it's purity is and what the price of gold is. I give it right on the spot, it's right there posted and what they're going to get. There's no mystery. You leave with a bill of sale and your check in hand. Thank you very much.

REP. DARGAN: Any further questions from committee members? Thank you very much

HAROLD KRITZMAN: Thank you for hearing me today.

REP. DARGAN: Next presenter is Richard here. Is it Richard?

RICHARD MURATONI: Chairman of the committee, welcome. I'm Richard Muratoni of Farmington Connecticut and I am strongly opposed to House Bill Raised 928. The holding theory for precious metals and metals probably violates free trade. It's just like buying stocks or bonds or stock. You call your stock broker, you want to sell stock, you're going to sell your stock at that market. Same thing with the coins. You know the holding period is going to cost -- like Bob was saying earlier, I'm repeating it -- it's going to cost the seller money on this, this thing here and it's also making the dealer a gambler. You know

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the seller is going to get less money; less money is going to go into the economy of Connecticut. The people -- they're not going to have money to spend okay? You're going to give him -- let's say the market -- let's say -- let's say an item is worth like \$5,000 to \$16,000 because you give him only \$15,000 he only has \$15,000 to spend in the community which is -- that's their loss. So I'm -- I'm -- and also the holding period is going to put dealers at risk. Where are you doing to store this stuff? Who's going to insure it? What if it gets stolen? These people know you're there and I also agree with Bob on repeating what he's saying is the electronic filing is just going to be a nightmare, an absolute nightmare on this. You know people need to be treated fairly, you know they need to sell their items for what -- what they're worth. Would you come to me with a \$100 bill and I say I'm only going to give you \$50 because I have to let it sit there? I don't think so and that is what -- that's what the bill is doing right now. It's hurting the economy of Connecticut. And that's all I have to say. I will be -- I will only be repeating what these people already said.

REP. DARGAN: Thank --

RICHARD MURATONI: Yes. Any other questions?

REP. DARGAN: -- Thank you for your testimony. Our next presentor is Fred (inaudible). Fred Whatever. Fred Ward, Fred (inaudible).

FRED WARD: Good afternoon Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Fredrick Ward. I represent the entities known as Good Old Tom. Good Old Tom has two stores currently in Connecticut and will eventually open another store and he has two stores in Arizona. My

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client complies with the law and has always complied with the law. He pays by check. The issue that we have is with the -- is with the hold period. We're asking for a uniform ten day hold period and some towns there is no hold period, apparently there is no hold period in Newington. In East Hartford there is a 21 day hold period. In Hamden I believe it's a 10 day hold period. I think Jay testified that there was a 5 day hold period where he is. We don't have a problem exempting coin people from the coin issues. If they're going to buy coins then there's no reason we -- we feel the coins and bullions should be exempted out. However, if people are going to engage in -- in the business of buying precious metals they should be held to the same standard. And for example, in West Hartford the -- and in East Hartford and in Hamden, a picture of the item is taken, a picture of the person's license is taken and the -- the seller and is immediately emailed by my client or faxed to the police department so that they have the opportunity to review what those items are. That's a safe -- that's a public safety item for the -- for someone who has lost an item and there's at least chance to recover that. What we're asking for is uniformity in a ten day hold period and we're also asking that everyone comply with that. If they're going to engage in precious metals there should be some uniformity otherwise why -- people would move around to the town that doesn't have the hold period. It doesn't make sense, it doesn't make sense to have a different rule for each town. That's all I have to say.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you for your comments. Questions from committee members at all? There are none. Thank you very much for your presentation.

Thank you very much

REP. DARGAN: Is there anyone else that hasn't signed up that

would like to testify before this committee?
For the second time is there anybody else that would like to testify. (Inaudible) do you want to testify? No. Veronica you want to testify? Carl (Inaudible) you want to testify?

A VOICE: No, no, no.

REP. DARGAN: Please stand up. No? Ok with that we conclude

today's Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing and everyone have a nice day now, bye bye now.

A VOICE: Bye, bye now.

February 28, 2013

Public Safety and Security Committee
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I submit this testimony as a precious metals dealer. I have been a precious metals dealer in New Haven, Connecticut for over 15 years, and ask that you support Raised Bill 928: An Act Concerning Precious Metals or Stone Dealers.

As you will recall, this bill is a continuation of our effort over the past few years to pass a law to regulate pawnbrokers, second hand dealers and precious metals and stone dealers in our state. While pawnbrokers are regulated, we ask that you create separate laws/statutes to specifically govern those dealing with precious metals or stones.

If passed, S.B. 928 would 1) provide protection to the public; 2) regulate our industry; 3) provide protection to the dealers; and 4) aid police enforcement.

Protection for the Public: S.B. 928 would require dealers of precious metals and stones to retain the photo of items and identity of any and all individuals from whom they purchase property. It further requires the dealers to keep a detailed record of all the property purchased for at least two years. These requirements provide two protections to the public. First, requiring the photo of any items purchased and a record of the identity of the seller of these goods will, one hopes, deter criminals from selling stolen property. Second, the record would provide law enforcement to identify stolen property and provide a lead to the perpetrator who sold the item(s) to the dealer.

Regulate our Industry: In addition to the above requirements for identifying whom the dealer purchased property and maintaining a record of all property purchased, S.B. 928 also requires the dealers to submit a weekly affidavit to the licensing authority concerning all of his or her transactions. Such requirement will force the dealers to keep better records.

Protection to the Dealers: S.B. 928 also provides some protection for the dealers, as well. Section 1(m) provides protection to the dealer if property is shown to have been stolen from the rightful owner, in spite of careful steps taken by the dealer to avoid such incidents. Subsection m provides a mechanism by which the dealer would be able to either have the property returned to them or have the court order restitution to the dealer by anyone convicted of obtaining the property illegally.

Aid Police Enforcement: Finally, S.B. 928 also requires dealers to retain the property for ten business days from the date of the transaction before selling or disposing. Currently, it is left up to each municipality to pass regulations as to the holding period for precious metals and stones. Each city and town is different, and they range from a zero day holding period to twenty one days. Not only is the varying significant, but a number of dealers located in areas with holding periods do not abide by them and sell and/or dispose of the property within the restricted period. A statewide holding period is needed. Without a holding period, dealers may send the precious metals to be melted down and can thereby destroy the evidence needed by the police force. S.B. 928 aids the local police by not only retaining the evidence, but providing a way by which they can stop into the dealers in the area and look through the records of property to identify not only the stolen property, but the identity of the individual who sold it to the dealer. Holding periods, overall, will not harm the dealers. While the price for precious metals does, indeed, fluctuate, the ebbs and flows in pricing level out over time.

The only issue I do not agree with is the second sentence in Subsection L, and I feel it should be removed prior to passage. "Upon the sale or disposition of such property, such licensee shall, if such property is not sold at retail at the place of business of such licensee, include a record of such sale or disposition in the record-keeping system required by this section." Many Dealers in precious metals and Jewelry travel all over the country to Jewelry Shows and Auctions to sell product. It would be very difficult to then go back and enter every item sold and to whom in the original record. Jewelry Shows take place in all types of settings and it would be cumbersome to attempt to gather consumer's personal information upon every transaction.

I urge the Committee, and the General Assembly as a whole, to create these overdue statutory revisions through the passage of S.B. 928.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record.

Sincerely,

Steven Goodman
Sally Goodman Jewelers
New Haven, CT

Testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill 928

02/27/2013

Committee on Public Safety and Security

Personal Testimony of
Michael Martorelli

My Name is Michael Martorelli, I am the owner of Meriden Pawn since 1995, located at 273 West Main St in Meriden CT. As a longtime pawnbroker and member of the Connecticut Association of Pawnbrokers, as well as the National Pawnbrokers Association, I am in Favor of Raised Bill 928 and strongly urge everyone on the Committee to do all that can be done to see that this bill becomes law.

This Bill requires precious metals dealers to abide by all the same reporting and hold requirements that secondhand dealers and pawnbrokers are required to follow. It also allows for strict penalties for failure to follow the statutes.

Thank You,

Michael Martorelli

Testimony on Raised Bill 928

02/27/2013

Committee on Public Safety and Security

Personal Testimony of
Stephen Lombardo

My Name is Stephen Lombardo, I am and have been the owner of Express Pawn for sixteen years located at 961 First Avenue in West Haven CT. As a longtime pawnbroker and member of the Connecticut Association of Pawnbrokers, as well as the National Pawnbrokers Association, I am in Favor of Raised Bill 928 and strongly urge everyone on the Committee to do all that can be done to see that this bill becomes law. This Bill requires precious metals dealers to abide by all the same reporting and hold requirements that secondhand dealers and pawnbrokers are required to follow. It also allows for strict penalties for failure to follow the statutes.

Thank You,

Stephen Lombardo

**Written Testimony Provided to the
Public Safety and Security Committee**

February 28, 2013

In Support of

PS Raised Bill 928; *AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES DEALERS*

My name is Chad LaPlante. I am the owner of Yankee Peddler & Pawn located in New London ,CT. I want to thank the Public Safety Committee for raising this bill.

In 2010, members of the Connecticut Association of Pawn Brokers sat down with legislators, representatives of the Attorney General's Office, the Police Chiefs Associations, Office of the States Attorney, State Police, and other interested parties to completely overhaul the laws addressing Pawn brokers, Second Hand Dealers, and Precious Metal Dealers.

In 2011, the Connecticut General Assembly unanimously approved Public Act 11-100. This law created 3 separate licenses for these 3 separate industries along with parallel regulations for Pawn Brokers and Second Hand Dealers licenses. Precious Metal Dealers licenses remained un-regulated with only minor changes. It is not uncommon for businesses to hold more than one of these licenses.

I, along with most pawn brokers hold all 3 licenses. The changes to the Pawn Broking and second hand dealers' licenses have created a well regulated industry that leaves little room for criminal activity.

Having separate regulations for each like license creates large inconsistencies among like industries. Have little or no regulation leaves the business of Precious Metal Dealing open to being unknowing accomplices to crime.

Raised Bill 928 adds needed state wide consistence to the industry, as well as, provide law enforcement with the time and record keeping that allows them the opportunity to catch criminals and return stolen jewelry and family heirlooms back to their rightful owners.

Raised Bill 928 adds electronic record keeping and reporting to local law enforcement, in addition to a standard 10 day hold period for purchases of precious metals. This regulation mirrors the reporting passed in PA 11-100 for second hand dealers. These reforms make good business sense, as well as, good customer service sense.

Please support RB 928.

Thank you.

Chad LaPlante

Yankee Peddler & Pawn, New London

Connecticut Association of Pawnbrokers

Mailing Address: 503 Lakewood Road, Waterbury, CT 06704

February 25, 2013 – SUPPORT PS Raised Bill 928; AN ACT CONCERNING PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES DEALERS

Dear Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Jay Sargent; I represent the CT Assoc. of Pawnbrokers in support of Raised House Bill 928. I am a partner with TC's Pawn Company Jewelry & Electronics of Waterbury, CT and President of the CT Association of Pawnbrokers.

Over the last few years we have worked with the Public Safety Committee and other interested parties on comprehensive changes in the licensing and reporting for our industry and those alike within the state of CT. Raised House Bill 928 continues with the effort to create continuity in a similar industry that Public Act 11-100 had not addressed.

As licensed Pawnbrokers, we are also all licensed Secondhand Dealers and **licensed Precious Metal and Stone Dealers** as well.

One of the main purposes of Raised House Bill 928 as it was with Public Act 11-100, is to curb the fencing of stolen goods. A large majority of businesses in our industry have worked together with local law enforcement for many years towards the recovery of stolen jewelry, by reasonable holding periods of 5 to 10 days, identification of the persons we purchase from and also by keeping a photographic record of jewelry purchases. As of October 2011 it became law for pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers to do just that. All of these tasks have assisted in the recovery and identification of thousands of pieces of jewelry and heirlooms for victims of crimes over the years and the prosecution of those responsible.

Furthermore, we believe any legislation reform to ensure proper licensing, the reporting of transactions and a holding period to give law enforcement an opportunity to recover property that has been stolen as it is with pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers, is in the best interest of any victim, consumer and law enforcement alike. The victims of such crimes should have all reasonable opportunities' to have their valuables recovered from any and all businesses that purchase jewelry or accept "trade-ins" from the public.

As always our Association is open to working together with Legislators and other interested parties in the best interest of the public's safety and our business community.

Respectfully,

Jay Sargent
President, CT Association of Pawnbrokers Inc.
Partner, TC's Pawn Company Jewelry and Electronics
503 Lakewood Road, Waterbury, CT 06704 – 203-753-7591