

PA 14-139

HB5056

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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On page 12, Calendar 126, Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on Planning and Development, Substitute Bill, House Bill 5056, AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN STATUTES CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS AND CONCERNING GROWTH-RELATED PROJECTS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, Representative Rojas. You have the floor, sir.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

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. ROJAS (9th):

Sure; thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an

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amendment, LCO 3442. I ask that the amendment be called and I be given leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 844 -- I'm sorry; excuse me -- 3442, which will be designated House Amendment "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO 3442, House "A," offered by Representative Rojas, AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN STATUTES CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND GROWTH -- IN REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS AND CONCERNING GROWTH-RELATED PROJECTS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The Chairman asks, has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection?

Seeing none, you may proceed, sir.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amendment is a strike-all amendment. The changes that it makes to the underlying bill have to do with the elimination of Section 2, and then it makes further changes in Line 181 and 183, and 311 and 315, which essentially eliminates references to the

MM&E program being housed within the Office of Policy and Management. Given that there -- there is no longer a reimbursement for MM&E, these statutes are therefore obsolete; so we are eliminating them.

I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of the resolution.

Do you care to remark?

The distinguished Ranking Member of the Planning and Development Committee, Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes; thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It appears that copies of the amendment have not been distributed.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The Chamber will please stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

It appears that the amendment has been distributed, so the Chamber will please come back to order.

Representative Aman, you still have the floor.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker; looking at the amendment that was presented, it does do pretty much exactly what the original bill that came forward.

However, there is one section regarding property tax exemptions; I believe it's Section (3). And through you, Mr. Speaker, if the Chairman can please explain that area; it deletes Sections (72), (74) of Section 12-81 of the statutes.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to clarify, that is, I believe he was referencing Section 6 not Section 3. And essentially what that does is eliminate references in Line 182; and, further, that would require the Office of Policy and Management to provide a reimbursement for the MM&E program. That PILOT reimbursement program no longer exists. The exemption is still in place on MM&E, but the reimbursement no longer exists, and that's why we're eliminating what are otherwise obsolete statutes.

Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, again, through you, it's my understanding that other than that section, the rest of the bill is -- the strike-all -- is the same as what went through committee and was passed unanimously.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Section 2 of the underlying bill was struck. When it came through committee, there was the understanding that we needed to make a conforming change within that area of statute. It was determined afterward that is no longer needed to be changed, so we struck Section 2 from the underlying bill.

Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

I do think the bill makes sense. Raising the limits from a hundred to \$200,000 for investments within growth-related projects is something I think we should do. And the rest of the changes are technical.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge my fellow colleagues.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on the amendment?

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I may, just a question to the proponent of the amendment.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In that section dealing with the MM&E, it -- it was my recollection in the committee that this was a change that municipalities had asked for through public hearings.

Am I correct in that, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't remember exactly if CCM testified on that particular section. This was a request that came from the Office of Policy and Management.

Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So in removing this section, I know we no longer have the program in place. My understanding is that manufacturing equipment is still exempt. When it's brought into communities, the municipalities do not have the authority to tax it, so am I correct that this section merely eliminates the reporting requirements that in the past when we had the tax reimbursements in place, the towns used to have to report the -- the manufacturing equipment that they had in their communities to OPM and then OPM would reimburse them. Since that program no longer exists,

we are eliminating the reporting requirements but the exemption still remains?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker; that's all.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on House Amendment "A?"

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

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, Nay.

The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as

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amended? 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
open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

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

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the 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.

Representative Molgano?

Mr. Clerk, will you please record Representative
Molgano in the affirmative.

And please take a tally.

Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, on House Bill 5056 as amended by
House "A."

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Total number voting	142
Necessary for passage	72
Those voting Yea	142
Voting Nay	0
Absent, not voting	7

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer House Bill 5038 to the Committee on Appropriations.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, sir.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Mr. Speaker, it's so good to say good afternoon and good-bye when it is still light outside.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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Thank-you, Mr. President. Moving to Calendar Page 6 where there are several items, the first, Calendar 341, House Bill 5117. Move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Also Page 6, Calendar 338, House Bill 5323, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Calendar 344, House Bill 5442, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Also, Madam President, Mr. President, Calendar 334, House Bill 5339, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President, and also on Calendar Page 6, Calendar 336, House Bill 5056, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

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Calendar 334, House Bill 5339.

Calendar 336, House Bill 5056.

On Page 7, Calendar 345, House Bill 5443.

On Page 9, Calendar 417, House Bill 5410.

On Page 10, Calendar 420, House Bill 5258.

Calendar 421, House Bill 5263.

Calendar 424, House Bill 5439.

On Page 11, Calendar 429, House Bill 5581.

On Page 12, Calendar 445, House Bill 5418.

Calendar 438, House Bill 5336.

On Page 13, Calendar 453, House Bill 5133.

Calendar 446, House Bill 5150.

Calendar 452, House Bill 5531.

On Page 14, Calendar 457, House Bill 5516.

Calendar 455, House Bill 5325.

Calendar 456, House Bill 5440.

Calendar 459, House Bill 5321.

Calendar 461, House Bill 5140.

On Page 15, Calendar 468, House Bill 5450.

Calendar 465, House Bill 5341.

On Page 16, Calendar 474, House Bill 5337.

Calendar 469, 5538.

Calendar 473, House Bill 5328.

On Page 17, Calendar 496, House Bill 5115.

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SENATOR LOONEY:

If we might pause for just a moment to verify a couple of additional items.

Madam President, to verify an additional item, I believe it was placed on the Consent Calendar and Calendar Page 30, on Calendar Page 30, Calendar 592, Substitute for House Bill 5476.

THE CHAIR:

It is, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

It is on? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, finally, Agenda Number 4, Madam President, Agenda Number 4 one additional item ask for suspension to place up on Agenda Number 4 and that is, ask for suspension to place on the Consent Calendar an item from Agenda Number 4.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President, and that item is Substitute House Bill Number 5566 from Senate Agenda Number 4.

Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, if we might call for a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Will you please call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

An immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

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An immediate Roll Call on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Two additional items to take up before the, our final vote on the implementer. If we might stand for just, for just a moment.

The first item to mark Go is, Calendar, to remove from the Consent Calendar, Calendar Page 22, Calendar 536, House Bill 5546. If that item might be marked Go.

And one additional item, Madam President, and that was from Calendar, or rather from Agenda Number 4, ask for suspension to take it up for purposes of marking it Go, that is House Bill, Substitute for House Bill 5417. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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hoping to sit down and have this meeting. We would like to point out that this is a compromise. We aren't looking for a complete repeal of this mandate, we're just simply asking that it be modified.

SENATOR OSTEN: Thank you. Are there any other question? Seeing none, thank you very much.

MIKE MUSZYNSKI: Thank you.

SENATOR OSTEN: Next is Randy Collins, and after him would be Henry Talmage, Connecticut Farm Bureau.

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(SB40)

RANDY COLLINS: Representative Rojas, Senator Osten, good afternoon. My name is Randy Collins, Senior Legislative Associate on Behalf of Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. I have submitted my written testimony, so I will be very brief. I know that the hearing is starting to move on.

First off I wanted to testify in support of House Bill 5055 AN ACT ELIMINATING MANDATES. I know we've heard quite a bit of testimony on this bill, and I would just like to reiterate CCM support and the support of our members for Section 1 which eliminates the payment through OPM to DMV for the registration of delinquent taxes.

We also support Section 2, which will allow municipalities the option to delay reval.

I'd like to speak very briefly on Senate Bill 38, AN ACT CONCERNING INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT TAXES. CCM has strong concerns with Senate Bill 38.

While it's kind of given as, you know, an

optional property tax relief to allow municipalities to reduce the interest rate from the current 18 percent to a range between 15 and 18 percent, it really, in fact, it becomes a de facto mandate which will place a lot of pressure on municipal leaders to reduce this interest rate, and thus lowering revenue available to municipalities.

It doesn't provide property tax relief to very many, and does not provide property tax relief to all, but simply is going to provide property tax relief to the people who aren't meeting their current obligations. Anybody who pays their bill on time is not going to see any savings.

You know, this is one of those that we kind of fought year in and year out, and have expressed our concerns within our oppositions. It doesn't just affect property tax, but it'll assess, if you assign a fine to a blighted property which I know is a significant problem in a lot of our municipalities, the interest rate on those liens that are filed would also be reduced as those interest rates are tied in together.

So we'd really ask the committee to oppose Senate Bill 38 and the de facto mandate that it would impose.

Very briefly in House Bill 5056 which is technical corrections to the RPO consolidations, we would ask, we've submitted testimony asking for a slight fix for what we kind of refer to as the money follows the town the way the statute is currently drafted, some of the transition fees for towns and RPOs that are consolidating or transitioning, unless all member towns are going, that money is not going

to come and we don't understand that the intention was not to do that, but we'd like to see that fixed, and we consider that a technical correction.

And House Bill 5057 which would allow for the municipal option to not tax horses, we appreciate that for the last few years that this has been a mandated exception, it now becomes optional. We appreciate that change in the language, but we do have concerns with Section 2, which would change the assessed value to the actual -- the actual value to the assessed value which would result in a financial impact to municipalities. Thank you very much, and if you have any questions I'd be happy to take them.

(SB40)
REP. ROJAS: A quick question, I remember there being some concern around towns about having to post minutes and agendas for all the public meetings in a timely manner online, and given that that is kind of the direction we're looking to head in with the legal notice notifications, are we going to hear kind of the same complaints that they don't have enough time or it's a burden of some kind for them to post these things online?

RANDY COLLINS: I mean, I think that we would be able, willing to work with that, there's if -- are we talk about the DMVPs with the posting?

REP. ROJAS: We're talking about legal notices.

RANDY COLLINS: I think, I mean, if everything has to be posted online, it has to be met within that certain deadline to file it within the newspapers. I think very easily, we could be able to work, we have to file it in the newspapers on time, we could easily file it

online within a very reasonable time, and if we can't do that, well, I think then we don't have much of a standing if we can't get a notice up online.

REP. ROJAS: In reference to the other comment you made about changing some of the language for the RPO consolidation, that is probably going to show up in another bill. So you'll probably have an opportunity to testify on that again.

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RANDY COLLINS: I look forward to it.

SENATOR OSTEN: Are there any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much. Henry Talmage? Or Joan Nichols is his substitute? Hi, Joan.

JOAN NICHOLS: Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Rojas, and members of the Committee. My name is Joan Nichols, I'm the Director of Government -- excuse me, Community Relations. I'm here today on behalf of Connecticut Farm Bureau, and on behalf of our Executive Director Henry Talmage who could not be here today.

I'm here today to ask your support of House Bill 5057, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF HORSES AND PONIES AND FARM MACHINERY AND THE TRANSFER OF LAND CLASSIFIED AS FARM LAND, OPEN SPACE LAND, FOREST LAND, AND MARITIME HERITAGE LAND. Mr. Talmage has also submitted written testimony on this bill.

Connecticut Farm Bureau represents over 5,000 farm families in the State of Connecticut. We ask your support of this bill for providing for technical changes to Public Act 490 which is one of the most important pieces of legislation that has helped maintain our forest land and



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 24, 2014

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5056 "An Act Making Technical Amendments To Certain Statutes Concerning Municipalities And Regional Planning Organizations"

CCM asks the committee to amend HB 5056 in order to allow for the awarding of grants under the "Regional Planning Incentive Account" to be distributed to each regional planning organization based upon a prorata basis of the municipalities joining a regional planning organization, and not contingent on the participation of "all member municipalities" as currently designated in statute. This would serve to ensure consolidating regional planning organizations receive the transitional funding appropriated in PA 13-247.

CCM urges the Committee to amend HB 5056.

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If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446