

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 14-213

SB432

House	5933-5947	15
Senate	2380-2385, 2449-2450, 3472, 3476, 3480-3481	12
<u>Judiciary</u>	<u>2474-2481, 2498, 2499</u>	<u>10</u>
		37

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
PART 18
5882 – 6232**

And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 332, as amended by Senate "A" and
House "A".

Total number voting	145
Necessary for passage	73
Those voting Yea	129
Those voting Nay	16
Absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill as amended is passed.

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Mr. Speaker, I move that we immediately transmit
Calendar Number 446 to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is transmittal. Is there objection?
Hearing none, the item is immediately transmitted.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Clerk, Calendar 519, please.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, on page 32, Calendar 519, Favorable
Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and
Development, Senate 432, AN ACT PROVIDING NOTICE TO

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A MUNICIPALITY UPON THE
RELEASE OF A REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDER INTO SUCH
MUNICIPALITY.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Judiciary
Committee, Representative Gerry Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for acceptance of
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of
the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on acceptance and passage.
Representative Fox, would you explain the bill,
please?

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The -- this is a bill
that came out of the Judiciary Committee. It was
supported by the Connecticut Conference of
Municipalities. And what it does is it expands on the
list of those public officials who need to be notified
when -- when an individual who is a registered sex
offender is -- would happen to move into that
community.

And what it says is that DESPP, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, has to notify the chief executive officer of a municipality when a registered sex offender plans to reside or is released into the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO Number -- excuse me, 5452, and if that could be called, I would ask to be given leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5452, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A". Mr. Clerk, please call it.

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO -- excuse me, 5452, as introduced by Representative Fox.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a -- a strike all amendment, which, in addition to the description I previously gave, it also states that when a registrant -- or registered sex offender is released into the community, but when they change their address and

notifies DESPP of the change of address, that when that does take place, the chief executive officer would also be notified by DESPP. And I would move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark further on House "A"? Representative Rebimbas, the distinguished ranking member of Judiciary.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to stand in support of the amendment that's before us. I do believe that it does strengthen the underlying bill.

And as Representative Fox had already indicated, this did pass both the Judiciary and Public Development Committee unanimously.

And I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Senator Crisco as well as well as Representative Klarides for bringing this to our attention.

It's a very good bill and I just wanted to clarify something, maybe for -- more for public knowledge regarding the circumstances around trying to track sexual offenders. So a question to Representative Fox, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, is there any laws currently that -- of any restrictions against sexual offenders as to where that they can reside? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the restrictions, there's -- oftentimes, the -- whether it's the parole board or probation, they may put certain restrictions on individuals. But if there's no other condition beyond that, then no. There's no -- not a restriction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to thank the Representative for his response. And the reason I ask that is really just for more public knowledge.

I think many times, the public is actually misinformed, that they believe that all sexual

offenders have some type of distance restriction as to where that they could reside, whether it's from schools or daycares and things of that nature.

And as the Representative had indicated, unless it's some kind of condition that's placed on their release specifically, we don't have a standard statute in the State of Connecticut that restricts where they can reside.

So what the underlying bill does, and again strengthened by the amendment, is it does require that upon their release that some type of notification is provided to the chief of that municipality, which, again, will allow them to properly be informed and be able to properly monitor.

Even though there is a website that the residents can go to to determine where these sexual offenders are actually residing, the website itself, again, the individual would have to on a regular basis be observing the website and monitoring the website to determine the person's change of address.

What the amendment, again, does is allow then the notice to go to the chief of the municipality when that person changes their address. So at all times, again, whether the individual is changing residence

within the town or to a different town, they will be provided with proper notice because, again, we all know that they have a lot of work to be done, that those chiefs of the municipalities, that it's virtually impossible for them to be monitoring these websites.

And again, just a clarification question, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Yes, ma'am.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The (inaudible).

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Just a moment. Representative Rebimbas, just a moment.

I was having trouble hearing Representative Rebimbas. Thank you.

Representative Rebimbas, proceed.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, the notice information that's provided to the chief of the municipality, is it simply restricted to the information that a resident could already find that's public through the website?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. It would be the same information that they would normally be able to access through the -- the website that does have all of the registered sex offenders on it. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I'd like to thank the Representative for his response. And again, this is just another opportunity to clarify that we're not diving into any additional information that already is not readily available to anyone that would access the website.

Again, the intent is just to keep a better close monitor by the chief of the municipality in case there are any concerns who occur. So again, I do stand in support of the amendment before us that will become the underlying bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam. The -- let's go to the sponsor of the amendment, Representative Sear.

REP. SEAR (47th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, a series of events occurred in Scotland, a small town in my district, that proved extremely traumatic for this small town. The legislation we are proposing in this amendment, if enacted, would have gone a long way toward minimizing the town's distress and distrust.

In brief, early this year, a non-profit purchased a residence in Scotland and -- with the goal of housing renters who are intellectually disabled. They purchased the home and they set up the home and the home is set up with round the clock staffing care and monitoring.

However, no notification was given to the town or any of the officials in the town, and the residents moved in in the beginning of April. And it was about mid-April and some towns people got on the state's website and made the connection. Two of the intellectually disabled residents in the home were previously convicted sex offenders.

And so they looked into it, they found out they are in the home; nobody knew about it. And then, they started asking questions. And this all happened last

week and last Thursday, I left his session to go to a public information meeting in Scotland.

It's a town of 1,700 residents and more than 350 of those residents went to that meeting. And they were demanding to know why all this happened under their nose, why their first selectman wasn't told, why nobody at their schools were told, and why it was up to them to figure out what was going on.

And needless to say, there was a lot of anger, there was a lot of fear, there was a lot of distrust going on there. This legislation would provide that information up front.

The original bill said when a sexual offender is released into a community, that the CEO would be notified. This amendment expands that, that when a sex offender, convicted sex offender, moves to a locality, that the CEO is not notified and the school superintendent is.

As a previous first selectman, I know that information is the key to under understanding and trust. And in this town, and it was quite traumatized, and -- and beyond the issue of any safety issues, or how safe the house was, on the fact that the information wasn't provided up front set up a -- a

system of distrust and suspicion that was extremely unfortunate.

Based on that real life experience and the parameters here, I come out in strong support of this amendment, which will become the underlying bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. The distinguished Republican deputy leader, Representative Klarides.

REP. KLARIDES (114th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Representative from Scotland for -- for putting this amendment in. And interestingly enough, the experience he had was the same exact experience Senator Crisco and I had in Woodbridge last year.

And it, you know, it was -- it was exactly the same. Constituents called. They said we found out that there were sex offenders. Quite frankly, sex offenders who -- who sexually assaulted five-year-olds, served 10 years in jail, came out, reoffended within a year, went back to jail, came out, and now are living in a home, in exactly the same situation.

And they were, obviously, irate, and they wanted to know how can this happen? Now, we all know you can

all check the sex offender registry and see who is on there, but we have all seen this, we have heard it, we read about it, we watch it on TV.

But unfortunately, as Representative Rebimbas mentioned, most people think that there are laws that say sex offenders, particularly sex offenders of children, can't live within a certain distance, can't live within a certain mileage, and they can.

And I think that should change. But unfortunately, a lot of people don't. A lot of people think that people should -- after they do their penance, they should live where they want to live. I think that that's a fight that we have for another day. It's a bill that's been brought up in this Chamber before and I think it's a bill that will be brought up again.

Having said that, we -- we wanted to do whatever we could do to at least make a little bit of a difference and put these people -- minds at ease to certain extent. So we submitted this bill.

And now, with the Representative's amendment, it's even made it better, that the first selectman and mayor will be notified when somebody is released or moved.

So I'd like to thank everyone for their good words and I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"? Excuse me. Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"?

Representative Ayala.

REP. AYALA (128th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this bill. I -- actually, I rise particularly because I have been in a position where I have two provide centers where there are children between the ages of three and five in my situation.

And I believe that this would be very helpful, just as a precautionary measure. It -- it's vital to be aware of your surroundings. I believe that some of these individuals that commit these -- these terrible acts against children may be sick.

I obviously am not a medical doctor, but I believe if they are -- if they do not have as much temptation, for example of being around a child center, as -- as in my case, then perhaps they may -- we may be able to keep children a bit safer.

This amendment is a very good one and I urge my colleagues to support it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on House "A"? Will you remark further on House "A"? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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?

If not, staff and guests please come 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 GODFREY:

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

Please check the machine to see if your vote is properly recorded and if so, the machine will be.

The Clerk will take a tally.

If all the members have voted, the Clerk -- oh, the Clerk will announce the tally. Will -- please.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 432, as amended by House "A".

Total number voting 145

Necessary for passage 73

Those voting Yea 144

Those voting Nay 1

Absent and not voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill as amended is passed.

Representative Morin. Never mind.

Mr. Clerk, would you kindly call Calendar Number 298.

THE CLERK:

On Page 10, Calendar 298, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections, substitute House Bill 5552, AN ACT CONCERNING SLATE COMMITTEES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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May 2, 2014

Good evening, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the Clerk would call as the next items calendar page 43, Calendar 387, Senate Bill 432; calendar page 43, Calendar 399, Senate Bill 152; on calendar page 43, Calendar 405, 457.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 43, Calendar 387, Senate Bill Number 432,
AN ACT PROVIDING NOTICE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER OF A MUNICIPALITY UPON THE RELEASE OF A
REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDER INTO SUCH
MUNICIPALITY, favorable report of the Committee
on Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark, sir?

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Mr. President, let me first credit Senator Crisco for his persistence in getting the committee and the Chair of the committee to take action on this issue. And this merely is a bill that would require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to notify the chief elected official of a municipality in the event that there is a plan to have a registered sex offender reside in the municipality of that chief elected official.

This bill is believed to be necessary because in the discretion of a chief elected official, if it is thought that the interests of public safety, particularly of children are required, in the discretion of that chief elected official parents may be notified that such an individual who is registered on the sex offender registry is residing in proximity to their neighborhood or their community.

I urge passage of the bill, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And I stand in strong support of this bill as well. Not only does Senator Crisco get a tremendous amount of credit for bringing this issue before the Judiciary Committee, representative Themis Klarides deserves an awful lot of credit as well.

This is in response to a particular matter where a sex offender landed in a community and it got the entire neighborhood and community very upset. And it seemed only fair that the chief elected

official should have seen this coming, but unless there's proper notification the head of a town or a municipality can't respond, can't communicate with neighbors and folks in the town.

And so if the State is going to be in cooperation with its municipalities in activities such as this, proper communication must be made. And for those of you around the circle who may have been chief elected officials of a municipality, I think you would all recognize that you would want a heads-up if this was something that was going to happen to your town.

So a straightforward bill, just making sure the lines of communication between the State and municipalities are open so that the town can engage dialogue and perhaps work these situations out in a way that doesn't upset individuals, nor put the public in danger if an individual is to be released to a halfway house or some kind of facility that might be near small children or a vulnerable population.

So for those reasons, Mr. President, I'm happy to support the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I wish to express my appreciation to Senator Coleman for his leadership and to Senator Kissel for his support. And as was mentioned Representative Klarides and myself have been working on this issue in regards to the Town of Woodbridge where unfortunately there was a residence which the owner, a non-occupant resident, you know, was able to get a contract with the State to provide a halfway house for several sex offenders. And I can appreciate the

fact that people are trying to return to a state of normalcy, but this was in a neighborhood of heavy, heavy populated, residents with many children.

And it was so acute that the school bus used to stop right in front of this residence, which gave greater anxiety to the parents. So fortunately things were worked out we greatly appreciate the cooperation and the support of the committee and Representative Klarides and I are deeply grateful.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I also rise in strong support of this piece of legislation. In the city of Norwich, one of the ten towns that I represent, we also had a similar circumstance happen where quite a few sex offenders moved into a residence that was directly across from a playground and near a school.

And the chief elected officer of that town was not notified, but the residents of the town go straight to the mayor or first selectman to find out what's going on. This mechanism will provide them with the knowledge ahead of time that a sex offender is moving into their municipality and they'll be better able to prepare their residents for the consequences of that.

I also thank Senator Coleman and Senator Crisco and all the other representatives that worked on this piece of legislation, including Representative Ryan, Representative Sear, and Representative Riley who helped bring this

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forward.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

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

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Late one night during a committee meeting Senator
Klarides' name just slipped my mind. I just
couldn't bring it up so before I make AND
compound that mistake, let me also give credit
and acknowledge Senator Klarides' work on this
bill.

And with that said, Mr. President, if there are
no further remarks to be made, may I move this
item to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there objection?

Seeing none, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Also on page 43, Calendar 399, Substitute for
Senate Bill Number 152, AN ACT CONCERNING COURT
SUPPORT SERVICES, favorable report of the
Committee on Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

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SENATOR COLEMAN:

Amendments.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

May we stand at ease for a second or two?

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Mr. President, this bill --

THE CHAIR:

Move the bill.

SENATOR COLEMAN:

I'm sorry. Did I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report in passage of the bill? If I didn't, I will now.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark?

SENATOR COLEMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

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Page 43, Calendar 387, Senate Bill 432.

Page 43, Calendar 399, Senate Bill 152. Also on
page 43, Calendar 405, Senate bill 457.

On page 6, Calendar 328, House Bill 5125.

And on page 8, Calendar 337, House Bill 5131.

On page 19, Calendar 460, House Bill 5057; and on
page 20, Calendar 462, House Bill 5472; and on
page 25, Calendar 501, House Bill 5578.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote on
the Consent Calendar. And the machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the
Senate. Immediate roll call on the Consent
Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's second Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would request suspension for purposes of immediate transmittal to the House of calendar page 37, Calendar 198, Senate Bill 357.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, yield the floor to members for announcements or points of personal privilege or upcoming committee meetings.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any points of personal privilege or upcoming meetings?

Senator Linares.

SENATOR LINARES:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good morning, sir.

SENATOR LINARES:

Good morning. Happy Saturday to you.

THE CHAIR:

I don't know about that sir, but go ahead.

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THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Also, Madam President, Madam President, back on the Calendar. Calendar Page 24, Calendar 552, Substitute for House Bill Number 5269, would move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Madam President, an additional item to add from the Calendar, Calendar Page 39, Calendar 387, Senate Bill Number 432. I move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. If we might stand at ease before having the Clerk list and then call that vote.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

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On Page 27, Calendar 574, House Bill 5564.

House Bill 578, House Bill 5220.

On Page 28, Calendar 580, House Bill 5310.

Calendar 584, House Bill 5334.

Calendar 585, House Bill 5586.

Calendar 583, House Bill 5289.

On Page 29, Calendar 586, House Bill 5402.

Calendar 589, House Bill 5550.

Calendar 590, House Bill 5262.

Calendar 587, House Bill 5377.

On Page 30, Calendar 593, House Bill 5526.

Calendar 592, House Bill 5476.

On Page 33, Calendar 215, Senate Bill 243.

On Page 39, Calendar 387, Senate Bill 432.

On Page 40, Calendar 475, House Joint Resolution
Number 20.

Calendar 476, House Joint Resolution Number 26.

Calendar 532, House Joint Resolution Number 42.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, can you please check on Consent Calendar
House Bill 5593. I don't see if you called that, on
the top.

THE CLERK:

That's on the previously adopted Senate Agenda House
Bill 5593.

THE CHAIR:

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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:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**JUDICIARY
PART 6
2392 – 2883**

2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

(cc: Sen. Joseph Crisco; Rep. Themis Klarides;
Ms. Betsy Yagla; Mr. Michael Waller)

I would like to submit for inclusion in the record of the Wednesday, March 12, 2014, Public Committee Hearing on SB 432 (a bill regarding notice to communities re: placement of sex offenders), this E-mailed, written testimony, along with the enclosed letter, as I am unable to attend the hearing in person. I previously submitted the letter to local Woodbridge officials and representatives on the same subject.

I and my family live in Woodbridge, Connecticut, where a sub-contracted home that houses two violent, felony sex offenders has been set up just a block from where our two children get on and off school busses. The home is within a two-block radius of about THIRTY schoolchildren.

As one who works in the criminal justice system and has prosecuted sex offenders, I am well aware that a major factor in reducing the risks of sex offender recidivism is separating sex offenders from the targets of their powerfully ingrained temptations. In plain terms, this means keeping the offenders away from locations where children congregate. This is why criminal courts always require sex offenders, as part of their probation and release conditions, to AVOID contact with children, schools, playgrounds, youth groups, etc.

The placement of this home in the heart of a child-rich neighborhood contradicts basic criminological wisdom; it risks tempting the offenders to commit now and horrendous crimes; and most important, it places a great many young, innocent children at risk of a life-scarring attack by such persons.

Such facilities should not be placed in any location near children. It is possible, and reasonable, to request that the authorities responsible for these siting decisions conduct research and find residential locations away from families with children, and away from children's facilities like schools and playgrounds.

It is difficult to conceive of any more important return on our tax dollars, than to avoid the imposition of preventable risks of major harm to our children. The decision to site this sex offender facility in our neighborhood does the exact opposite, by imposing such grave and immediate risks to children. We can, should, and do expect immediate attention and better leadership on this issue from our state officials and administrators.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Henry K. Kopel
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Henry and Dawn Kopel
21 Richard Sweet Drive
Woodbridge, CT 06525

September 26, 2013

SB432

To our elected representatives:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with representatives of our neighborhood.

As parents of school-age children, we most strongly oppose the State of Connecticut's act of having placed a group home for convicted, felony sex offenders in the middle of our neighborhood, surrounded by families with young children.

The group home is located at 4 Old Still Road in Woodbridge. Our home, with two public-school children, is less than a block away. Within two blocks of the group home are families with a total of at least 28 children, ages 1 to 17. Most of these children, like ours, get on and off a public school bus mornings and afternoons in the neighborhood streets.

Presently two registered sex offenders reside in the group home. Per the state's sex offender registry, one of the residents was convicted in May 2008 of four felony sex offense crimes, based on his having digitally raped two young girls, ages 5 and 7. The other resident was convicted in December 1983 of 1st degree sexual assault, and in May 1997 of two felony crimes involving sexual assault of a child.

Beyond the fact that this group home siting decision was made with no clear notice to or discussion with the neighborhood families whose children bear virtually all the risks of the sex offenders' criminal temptations, we believe this siting decision is entirely and inexcusably wrong as a matter of public policy. It is primarily wrong with respect to our neighborhood children who are placed directly at risk of a horrible and life-damaging sexual assault. But it is also wrong for the offenders and the criminal-justice system, whose goals must certainly include rehabilitation, and minimizing the temptations to re-offend. Criminal courts routinely require that convicted sex offenders, upon release from prison, stay away from locations involving large concentrations of children. Siting this group home at 4 Old Still Road runs directly contrary to the wisdom and practice of the criminal courts.

There are doubtless plenty of residential locations in the State of Connecticut where, unlike this neighborhood, the households are primarily adults without children. That would be a far more prudent location for a group home of this type – both to avoid the grave risks to children, and to reduce the temptations and consequent likelihood that the home's occupants will commit new crimes.

We respectfully request that those having the authority and responsibility for this group home siting decision be required promptly to find an alternative location, and then relocate the offenders.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Henry Kopel

On behalf of Henry & Dawn Kopel

Testimony regarding**AN ACT PROVIDING NOTICE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF A MUNICIPALITY UPON THE RELEASE OF A REGISTERED
SEXUAL OFFENDER INTO SUCH MUNICIPALITY, raised bill No. 432**

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Judiciary Committee

Submitted by Ellen Scalettar, First Selectman, Town of Woodbridge.

Good afternoon. My name is Ellen Scalettar and I am the First Selectman of the Town of Woodbridge. I am here today to testify in connection with Raised Bill No 432, "An Act Providing Notice to the CEO of a Municipality Upon the Release of a Registered Sexual Offender into such Municipality."

This bill would require the state to email the first selectman and school superintendent of a town when a registered sex offender will be released to that community. Notice to a town could be helpful and I support notice to the mayor or first selectman.

Today, however, I would like to focus on a related but different issue. I respectfully request that this proposed bill include a provision to alert municipal CEOs of the standards, rules and regulations that govern specific state-funded halfway houses in their towns when a sex offender is in residence. In Woodbridge, a group of residents became concerned after checking the online sex offender registry. They learned that two mentally disabled pedophiles were living in a state-funded halfway house near a school bus stop in their neighborhood. Many of these residents have children and they are naturally concerned for their safety.

I understand the importance of state and federal laws that protect the mentally disabled from housing discrimination. I also understand the importance of HIPAA laws that protect medical records from being disclosed. I do not see, however, that either of those protections outweigh – nor should they preclude – providing reassurance to residents about the safety and security procedures in place at the state-funded facilities in their neighborhoods. Since the identities of sex offenders and their place of residence are already available online, surely the security rules in place at the residence does not merit greater privacy protection.

The residents living near the convicted pedophiles have unsuccessfully requested this information from the Department of Developmental Services; these residents have no idea how long these three convicted pedophiles or their successors will live in their neighborhood. They have no idea what rules—if any—the halfway house requires of them. And, if there are rules, the residents have no idea if the rules are actually followed.

We have many laws that protect the sexual predators living in our neighborhoods and across the state. Surely, it is equally important to protect our residents and their children by providing them with critical information so they can make informed decisions to keep their families safe.

Thank you for your consideration of this important amendment to SB 432.



Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Judiciary Committee
March 12, 2014

**Re: SB-432, AN ACT PROVIDING NOTICE TO THE CEO OF A MUNICIPALITY
UPON THE RELEASE OF A REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDER INTO SUCH
MUNICIPALITY**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* SB-432, which requires the state to notify the chief elected official of a municipality via email when a registered sex offender will be released to the community.

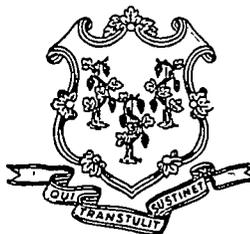
Protecting the safety and welfare of residents is a chief responsibility of municipal government. This bill will provide municipal officials with the information needed to take steps to protect residents

COST also urges lawmakers to amend the bill to address concerns regarding the placement of sex offenders in halfway houses. Municipal officials should be apprised of the placement of such individuals and the measures in place to ensure the safety of nearby residents.

Connecticut Council of Small Towns
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SENATOR JOSEPH J. CRISCO, JR.
Seventeenth District

CHIEF DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
FEDERAL RELATIONS LIAISON



State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Insurance & Real Estate Committee
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Commerce Committee
Member
Appropriations Committee
Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee
Legislative Management Committee

Testimony

In Support of

SB 432: An Act Providing Notice To The Chief Executive Officer Of A Municipality Upon The Release Of A Registered Sexual Offender Into Such Municipality

March 12, 2014
Judiciary Committee

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas, distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee

For the record, I am Senator Joe Crisco. I represent the 17th District, which includes the towns of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck and Woodbridge.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 432: An Act Providing Notice To The Chief Executive Officer Of A Municipality Upon The Release of A Registered Sexual Offender Into Such Municipality.

This bill is important in situations where a sexual offender is released into a neighborhood where many young children reside.

The bill, if passed, would give the CEO discretion to inform residents of the neighborhood so that parents could take appropriate actions with respect to the safety of their children.

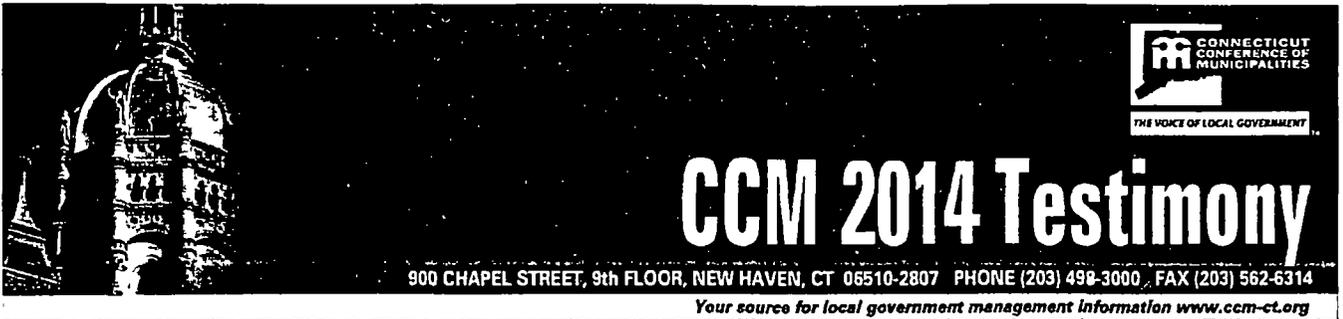
This bill would have been important to a neighborhood in the Town of Woodbridge, which I represent, where a Group Home is home to two sex offenders. One of the offenders was convicted of four felony sex offense crimes, two of which involved young girls age 5 and 7. The other was convicted of two felony crimes involving sexual assault of a child.

- Within 2 blocks of the Group Home are families with 28-30 children, ranging in age from 1 to 17.
- School age children get on and off the bus mornings and afternoons and walk to their homes.
- The bus stop for one of the children was located directly in front of the Group Home. (It was relocated at the request of the parent once he learned of the residents of the Home.)

It was several years before the parents learned of the occupants of the Home, and were able to take appropriate action, such as having the bus stop moved.

I believe it is important for parents to be given the tools and information that would allow them to ensure the safety of their children. For this reasons, I urge support of this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 432: An Act Providing Notice to the Chief Executive Office of a Municipality Upon the Release of a Sexual Offender into Such Municipality.



JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 12, 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.

SB 432 – “An Act Providing Notice to the Chief Executive Officer of a Municipality Upon the Release of a Registered Sexual Offender into Such Municipality.”

HB 5449 – “An Act Concerning Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders.”

CCM supports both SB 432 and HB 5449 as a reasonable means to ensure public safety is properly maintained.

CCM appreciates the Committee raising SB 432, which would require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to provide notification to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a municipality when a registered sexual offender is released into their community. Currently, police departments are already notified through the COLLECT system when an offender is released into the municipality. The Department of Corrections provides DESPP with the information, which then input it into the COLLECT system.

Local CEO's are often unaware when an offender is released into the community. While police receive notification, they are often consumed with normal law enforcement duties, and often it is not a priority for them to report the information to the local CEO. For municipalities that do not have an organized police force, often times the local CEO receives calls regarding non emergency public safety matters. This information will be useful in knowing the placement of these offenders and ensuring they are not near vulnerable individuals, such as schools, day cares, senior centers. While placement of an offender may not be near these vulnerable individuals, local CEO's may have a better knowledge of future development plans. With the myriad of responsibilities that municipal leaders have, it is often cumbersome for them to repeatedly check the online sex offender registry for any changes.

HB 5449 would prohibit registered sex offenders, when released, to reside within 1,000 ft of an elementary, secondary or day care center. This proposal, along with SB 432 will enhance safety within our communities.

CCM asks the Committee to favorably report SB 432 and HB 5449.

★★★★

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

Department of Correction
Testimony of Eric Ellison, Parole Manager

Judiciary Committee
March 12, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5449, AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDERS

Raised Bill No. 432, AN ACT PROVIDING NOTICE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A MUNICIPALITY UPON THE RELEASE OF A REGISTERED SEXUAL OFFENDER INTO SUCH MUNICIPALITY.

Good afternoon, Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Eric Ellison, Parole Manager for the Department of Correction. I am here to express the Department's opposition to Raised Bill No. 5449, An Act Concerning Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders. I will also comment briefly about Raised Bill No 432, An Act Providing Notice to the Chief Executive of a Municipality Upon the Release of a Registered Sexual Offender into Such Municipality.

The Department of Correction's Parole and Community Services Division employs an evidenced-based multidisciplinary approach to effectively manage registered sex offenders in the community. This approach includes techniques and interventions shown to result in positive outcomes and reduce sexual recidivism. Restricting access to potential minor victims is a critical intervention which reduces the likelihood of future sexual victimization. Parole officers responsible for the supervision of registered sex offenders make decisions to exclude certain registered sex offenders from contact with minors using all available information and input from the division's collaborative partners.

These partners include contracted sex offender treatment providers from The Connection Inc., Center for the Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior; polygraph examiners; victim advocates from Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS); state police from the Connecticut State Police Sex Offender Registry Unit; local law enforcement responsible for matters relating to registered sex offenders; Department of Correction institutional sex offender treatment providers; and staff from the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Parole's sex offender management techniques and other interventions include the use of validated sex offender risk assessments, polygraph examinations, individualized case management plans, offense specific cognitive-behavioral sex offender treatment, and intensive supervision including frequent compliance checks and GPS monitoring, toxicology testing, sex offender registration, victim advocacy, computer monitoring and computer forensic examinations, and surveillance.

The residency restriction provisions in Raised Bill No. 5449 would negatively impact the Department's ability to place and effectively supervise sex offenders on parole because already scarce housing options would be drastically reduced. In reality, future paroled sex offenders

would no longer be able to live in major urban areas, limiting their access to parole offices, sex offender treatment, jobs, and other necessary services. The majority of registered sex offenders currently on parole reside in major urban areas where schools, daycares, and senior centers are concentrated.

Additionally, parole officers would lose the ability to effectively monitor risk factors related to sexual offending due to the certain increase in offender homelessness. Electronic monitoring devices would become difficult, if not impossible, to utilize due to the lack of available power sources necessary to charge monitoring equipment.

Stable housing is a critical factor in the successful reintegration of sex offenders. Housing instability has been shown to increase general and sexual recidivism. The bill's provisions would restrict some paroled sex offenders from residing with supportive family or friends leading to isolation and an increased risk to reoffend. Residency restrictions are not supported by empirical evidence and there appears to be no relationship between proximity and recidivism.

Sex offender registration, as defined by C.G.S. Chapter 969, is based solely on crime of conviction and is not a reliable predictor of risk. This system should not serve as the basis for residency restrictions. Relevant static and dynamic factors, shown to be predictive of sexual recidivism, are absent from the Connecticut sex offender registry.

While the majority of sexual offenses against minors are perpetrated by family, friends, or others known to the victim, a predatory offender intent on reoffending can conceivably access a minor victim anywhere in the community. Studies have shown these offenders actually prefer targeting minor victims in neighborhoods other than their own where they will not be recognized.

If this Raised Bill were to move out of committee, the Department would like to see, prior to any final action, the development of a statewide map identifying the one-thousand foot zones surrounding all public and private elementary schools and every day care service provider in the state. With this tool we could have a meaningful conversation regarding the severe housing restrictions for this population.

Additionally, regarding Raised Bill No. 432, An Act Providing Notice to the Chief Executive of a Municipality Upon The Release of a Registered Sexual Offender into Such Municipality, I would simply like to point out that this information is already transmitted to the local police departments, the State Police and Resident State Troopers through the COLLECT system. This bill appears redundant, as Chief Executives can get this information from law enforcement currently.