

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

**PA 14-24**

SB100

House	4206-4209	4
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<u>Public Safety</u>	<u>6-15, 41, 43-44, 122-125</u>	<u>17</u>
		<b>27</b>

**H – 1193**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2014**

**VOL.57  
PART 13  
4098 – 4450**

pat/gbr/cd  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

109  
May 1, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Rojas, for what purpose do you rise?

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Hello, Madam Speaker, I wish to cast my vote in the affirmative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Are there any others? Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

S.B. 101 in concurrence.

Total number voting	140
Necessary for passage	71
Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	11

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 317.

THE CLERK:

On page 14, Calendar 317, favorable report of the joint standing committee on General Law, AN ACT CONCERNING BAZAARS AND RAFFLES.

SB100

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Esposito.

REP. ESPOSITO (116th):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. I move for the acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

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

Representative Esposito, you have the floor.

REP. ESPOSITO (116th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill streamlines the application process for the sponsors of an event. Rather than apply to their municipality and then to the DCP, they apply directly to the DCP and give their fees and application fees right to the DCP, who will approve the application or deny it, send the required amount back to the municipality and notify the municipality's chief elected official or police chief.

And it makes some other technical changes, that it removes the restriction as far as advertising by billboard or loudspeaker, lawn sign, it takes that out of the statute and the sponsoring organization will be

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allowed to so advertise, and I move acceptance, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Will you remark further?

Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, support the bill that's before us. This was a Department of Consumer Protection bill and it did not alter the fee structure. It just streamlined the process, as the good Representative said, and I urge my colleagues' support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Will you remark further?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. The members will 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.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if 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:

Senate Bill 100 in concurrence.

Total number voting 141

Necessary for passage 71

Those voting Yea 141

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 10

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Representative Santiago, for what purpose do you rise?

REP. SANTIAGO (84th):

Thank you, Madam Chair. For purposes of an announcement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Please proceed.

REP. SANTIAGO (84th):

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2014**

**VOL. 57  
PART 2  
341 - 702**

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, through you, Madam President, and thank you for your question, Senator Welch.

September 27th has been designated as a national day by which there is a petition before Congress to establish this on a national basis.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you very much, Madam President. If there is no objection, I would ask that this be added to the Consent list, Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, ma'am. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 36, Calendar 88, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 100 AN ACT CONCERNING BIZARRES AND RAFFLES. Favorable Report of the Committee on Public Safety.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:



Yes, thank you, Madam President. I move acceptance and passage of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. The proposal that we have before us is a continuation of the incredible leadership and work that we have witnessed thus far from the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection.

A very important part of the funding and fund raising of our not-for-profits is the conducting of raffles and bazaars and unfortunately, I think perhaps all of us recognize that that process has been very cumbersome and tedious to those organizations and so it was the Commissioner's vision as he continues to achieve efficiencies in his department to propose the further streamlining of this process.

And so, effectively what it does is, allow an individual, a not-for-profit to go directly to the state without having to have additional steps going to the municipality, and it also streamlines the process, which is known as post event verification, where they are allowed to go directly to the Department of Consumer Protection, once again.

It further allows such entities to come to the 21st Century in terms of their promotion and advertisement of their events by using something simple as e-mails, which they were banned from doing before, if you could believe that and so this basically is a streamlining and efficiency proposal and I urge passage, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark? Will you remark?  
If not, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Madam President, and without objection, I'd ask that this be added to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, seeing no objection, so ordered.  
Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if we might return to Calendar Page 9, Calendar 84, Senate Bill 201 as the next item.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar 84, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 201 AN ACT CONCERNING CANCELLATION NOTICES OF INDIVIDUAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES. Favorable Report of the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, 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, sir?

SENATOR CRISCO:

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, this hopefully helps a situation where there may be seniors who receive, do not pay their insurance premiums and what this bill will do will notify a third party as

Consent Calendar Number 2. On Page 6, Calendar 63,  
Senate Bill Number 19.

On Page 7, Calendar 64, Senate Bill Number 20.

Also on Page 7, Calendar 71, Senate Bill 241.

On Page 12, Calendar 156, Senate Bill Number 207.

And on Page 14, Calendar 165, Senate Bill 115.

Page 15, Calendar 171, Senate Bill Number 313.

And on Page 16, Calendar 179, Senate Bill Number 376.

Also on Page 16, Calendar 182, Senate Bill Number 101.

And on Page 17, Calendar 184, Senate Bill Number 247.

Page 19, Calendar 200, Senate Bill 205.

On Page 20, Calendar 201, Senate Bill Number 82.

On Page 35, Calendar 69, Senate Bill 63.

Calendar 75, Senate Bill 112.

And Calendar 77, Senate Bill Number 364.

On Page 36, Calendar 88, Senate Bill 100.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. When the Clerk was reading those items, wanted to inquire on the status of Calendar Page 7, Calendar 72, Senate Bill 92.

THE CLERK:

And I should have read, Page 7, Calendar 72, Senate Bill 92.

THE CHAIR:

That's also on the Consent Calendar. Is that correct?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could I ask you about Page 8. I don't know if there has been marked, which bill, Page 8, Calendar 76, 113? Did you say that?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam President. It is on the Second Consent Calendar for today.

THE CHAIR:

And Page 9, Calendar 84, Bill 201. Was that read, sir?

THE CLERK:

Yes, ma'am.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call is ordered in the Senate.

Immediate Roll Call on the Second Consent Calendar for today is ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members voted, the machine will be closed. I ask the Clerk to please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the Second Consent Calendar for today.

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:

Yes, Madam President. Thank you. Madam President, would move that all of the bills referred to various Committees earlier in the Session, that those bills be immediately transmitted to the Committees to which they were referred.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if the Clerk would now call an item that was marked passed temporarily earlier, and that was Calendar Page 9, Calendar 108, Senate Bill 36.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar 108, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 36 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE. Favorable Report of the Committee on Public Health, and there are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY  
PART 1  
1 – 381**

**2014  
INDEX**

1  
rc/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 18, 2014  
11:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN: Senator Hartley  
Representative Dargan

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Ayala, Guglielmo, Osten, Witkos

REPRESENTATIVES: Arconi, Bacchiochi, Boukus,  
Clemons, D'Amelio, Giegler,  
Gonzalez, Hampton, Hwang, Jutila,  
Kupchick, Mikutel, Nicastro,  
Orange, Rovero, Yaccarino, Zupkus

SENATOR HARTLEY: We would like to convene this morning's public hearing of the Public Safety and Security Committee, this being our first public hearing, and we're going to try to go post haste so that we can return people safely to where they have to be.

And so, without further ado, we would like to invite our first speaker who I believe is with us at this point, and that is Commissioner Rubenstein, who will be testifying, as I understand you sir, on Senate Bill 100. Is that correct?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: That's correct.

SENATOR HARTLEY: And before you begin, sir, we just want to make note to those who are with us, and also those who are viewing today, that despite the weather, it is a very busy day at the capitol and people will be moving back and forth to various committees, and thank you, Commissioner, for being with us. Good morning, sir.

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2 ..  
rc/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 18, 2014  
11:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Good morning, it is a pleasure to be here today on a -- on a nice snowy day.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Another one.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Unusual day in the Rocks here -- here. So, you know, I want to thank the members of the committee for raising an act concerning bazaars and raffles, which was a -- a -- a bill that the Department of Consumer Protection submitted for your consideration. So, I want to start by thanking you for doing that.

It is really a fairly minor bill, but it does some significant things. It makes minor changes to the bazaar and raffle statutes, with an eye towards improving and streamlining the application process, and to make it easier for charitable organizations to advertise and conduct authorized gaming activities. You know, we continue to look at our statutes to figure out how -- how we can make the pathway for charitable organizations to fund raise easier.

So let me just discuss the -- the first change that we made. Under current practice, in order to conduct a bazaar or raffle, a charitable organization has to -- has to first go to the local police department, hand in duplicate applications, a couple of different checks. The police department does an investigation; they send it off to the Department of Consumer Protection. We do an investigation, then we send the application back to the police department



where the charitable organization needs to pick it up.

We propose to streamline that process so the paper is not moving back and forth twice between the local police department and -- and the Department of Consumer Protection. Under -- under what we're proposing, the charitable organization would file their application directly with the Department of Consumer Protection. We would process the funds; we would process the application; and then we would send the permit, along with the portion of the fee that goes to the municipality to the municipality, and the charitable organization can pick up their -- their permit from the municipality. It saves everybody time, and effort, and duplication.

The second -- and you know, we anticipate that this process, while right now will be done by -- by mail, in the very near future we will have an online option for charitable organizations. So that will make it even -- even easier for them.

Related to that, we are also proposing streamlining the post-event verification. Right now, after an event, there is some bookkeeping records that the charitable organizations have -- have to submit, first to the police department of the local municipality, then transfer to the Department of Consumer Protection. The Department of Consumer Protection has its professional audit staff make sure that all the numbers add up, and -- and so what we are proposing is eliminating that kind of middle --

middle-man step for the local police department, take the burden off them, have those reports submitted directly to us, to our professional staff to do the verification, and then we will report back to the municipality with -- with regard to -- to -- to those verifications. So, again, it streamlines the process.

Then there are a couple of other little minor things. Right now, in order to have a -- a bazaar or raffle, the sponsoring organization must have electors that are in the municipality where the -- where the event is to take place. We propose just substituting the requirement that the -- that they be residents of the state of Connecticut, because, as I am going to talk about in a minute, we are going to ease up the burden of having charitable organizations being able to hold their events in -- in neighboring communities if that's more convenient for them.

So that next little piece, what we're proposing right now, in order to hold a bazaar, only three kinds of organizations are currently permitted to hold that bazaar outside the municipality which is their home, and -- and we're proposing to allow all charitable organizations that are entitled to hold bazaars to hold their bazaar outside the municipality in which they are located, with the permission of the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality.

We think -- this feedback we get back from charitable organizations all the time, wanting to be able to hold their event in the -- in the town next door, or across the line at some -- some

restaurant or facility. So this makes it easier for -- for them to do that.

And finally, the last little change that we want to do -- there are currently a series of advertising restrictions for charitable organizations and how they can advertise their bazaars and raffles. We think that those advertising restrictions are outdated. It makes it much harder for charitable organizations to -- to do their fundraising through these things. We propose repealing those and allow advertising restrictions only be subject to local municipal ordinances.

That's the extent of the bill. This is all based upon feedback that we get from charitable organizations about what would make their life easier. We think they are all reasonable and sensible.

So with that, if you have any questions, I'm happy to take them.

SENATOR HARTLEY: And are there questions from committee members?

Yes, Representative Gonzalez.

REP. GONZALEZ: Thank you, and thank you, Commissioner, for coming. Can -- can you explain to me? Let's say an organization here in Hartford is going to sponsor a raffle.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Yes.

REP. GONZALEZ: So you're saying that -- that I will have -- I can't -- I can't have the raffle here in Hartford? I have to go --

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Oh, no, no. You can have it here in Hartford, but if you would like to have it, for example, in Windsor because the -- the hall in which you're going to conduct the event is, you'll be able to do that with -- with permission of the Windsor authorities. So what it allows is, is similarly, if an organization that is located in Windsor would like to have its bazaar event in a -- in a facility in Hartford, they will now be able -- be able to do it.

REP. GONZALEZ: Oh.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Right now, only church groups and -- and a couple of other organizations can do that. This will allow all charitable organizations to be able to do that.

REP. GONZALEZ: Oh, okay. Okay, thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you Representative Gonzalez.

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you, and good morning, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Good morning.

SENATOR WITKOS: Just for clarification purposes for intent, on Lines 216, and further beyond in the bill, we added the word sponsoring for conducting

raffles. , It used to say each organization  
conduction -- and this particular example was a  
cow chip raffle. I -- I want to confirm that by  
adding the word sponsoring, that doesn't preclude  
any other outside entity that is sponsoring the  
bill, so say for example, there's a drug-free  
graduation organization that puts together  
parties for high school kids when they graduate,  
but they have local businesses that are  
sponsoring that event for them, they would not  
follow under that?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: The -- the  
sponsoring organization refers to the -- the  
permit applicant, that is the -- the charitable  
organization, whether it is a 501(c)3 or a church  
group or other. But that's what -- that's what's  
intended by sponsoring organization, and it  
tracks back to earlier language that we changed  
to allow these events to take place in different  
places.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you. And my other question is,  
now that we are starting the process with the  
Department of Consumer Protection rather than the  
municipality, what do -- do you anticipate a  
longer turnaround time for the permits to get to  
the municipalities, or -- ?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: We anticipate  
shorter turnaround time --

SENATOR WITKOS: Shorter time, okay.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: -- because now you  
won't have to rely upon the mail from the -- from

the local police department getting to DCP, being reviewed, and then going back. You know, right now it will just start in DCP. You'll only have that mail delay once instead of twice.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Senator.

Further questions from committee members?

Commissioner, thank you very much. I -- I would like to first of all recognize your leadership in the department, and the great progress that has been made so far in terms of bringing things down to the most common denominator.

My one question, you said that this is input that you received from the charitable organizations. With regard to the changes that we're making, where they're going to have one-stop shopping so to speak, have you had any input from the local PDs about these changes.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: We -- we have not had discussion with local PDs, but what we do know is it will reduce substantially their record keeping and -- and -- and the burden upon them to do initial investigations. So we -- we anticipate that -- that as it is good for the charitable organizations, it is also good for the municipalities who will have to expend less resource dealing with the same paperwork twice.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, sir.

Co-Chair Dargan.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Commissioner. It's good to have you here. My one issue has been something that we've discussed before. Maybe you could talk about it a little bit, is the 50:50 raffles and the permitting from that. The information that I received from the Department of Consumer Protection showed me there was less than about 100 permits. That would be for school organizations, rotaries, monthly meetings that people have whereby they have a 50:50 raffle, and now, in most instances, even underneath the law they're supposed to register, but there isn't registration on that. So, can you speak a little bit about that, what you're looking to try to do.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Well, the -- the -- the 50:50 portion of what we had spoken about earlier has not made its way -- has not made its way into the raised bill. So, there are no changes with regard to the 50:50 raffles.

REP. DARGAN: So, you're happy with that? Because that makes me happy.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: If you're happy, I'm happy, Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN: That's very good, Commissioner. I'm glad that there's a big compromise on that issue, and you show the insight into moving forward, and the great job that you do over there with your liaison that does a great job with the department, how big that it's gotten. Thank you.

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10.  
rc/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 18, 2014  
11:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: He's going to have to -- he's going to have to get a new hat size.

REP. DARGAN: Yes.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yes.

For the second time, Representative Gonzalez.

REP. GONZALEZ: Thank you, for the second time.

So this changes -- it -- it changed -- it changed the fees between the state and the municipalities.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: No, no. There -- there are no changes to the fees. The municipality will receive exactly the same proportion of fees that they -- that they used to receive.

REP. GONZALEZ: So there is no change?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: No, there is no change.

REP. GONZALEZ: Okay, thanks.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you. And if there are no further questions for the Commissioner, thank you once again for being with us.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.



SHEILA MATTHEWS: Okay. I thank you very much, and the only thing I would just add regarding the amendment process is that on -- on the Bill 13-3 that was passed at the last minute of the session only allocated money for, you know, the process of identifying children, and on -- our organization just really urges informed consent and the MedWatch. So, thank you so much.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Sheila.

And I would like to now invite Mike Muszynski -- oh, yes, CCM. Yes.

MIKE MUSZYNSKI: Good afternoon, Chairman Dargan, Chairman Hartley, ranking member -- members of the Public Safety Committee.

HB5150  
SB100  
SB101

My name is Mike Muszynski with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. We've submitted testimony on several bills on today's agenda. I just wanted to take this opportunity to touch on a couple of them in greater detail. You already heard from Mayor Boughton who testified on behalf of CCM supporting Senate Bill 98, which would establish standards for public school security personnel.

The next bill I wanted to discuss is Senate Bill 103 regarding fire department apparatus maintenance standards.

Municipal officials value those in the fire service, and best efforts are made to ensure that municipal vehicles are maintained properly. While well intended, CCM has concerns with the

noncompliance would impose a more strict level of negligence.

On a personal note, I am a firefighter in the town of Wethersfield. We, as a department and a company, we have -- we already conduct weekly inspections, testing; we have annual pump and aerial testing certifications; we have particularly documentation and reporting requirements, and it's likely that most departments around the state already have similar protocols.

I also serve as a lieutenant, and so I strive to ensure that my crew check the apparatus and report any problems. Leadership within these departments can ensure that safety is properly maintained.

CCM recommends that the committee allows towns and cities the option to adopt these standards, as many of them already probably do.

Another bill, 5150, regarding fire safety enforcement official standards; CCM supports the proposal. These standards would ensure that fire marshals and fire inspectors are better trained and equipped to serve the needs of the community.

Senate Bill 100, Bazaars and Raffles. At initial review, CCM has concerns in the fee-sharing structure and the review process. CCM would just ask the committee to first obtain a detailed analysis on the potential impact this proposal would have on local budgets and, at the very

least have a revenue-neutral impact on our hometowns.

And, of course, CCM supports Senate Bill 100 which will proclaim September 27th as First Responder Day.

SB101

With that, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you for coming to testify. Just one issue dealing with fire service personnel, and maintenance and apparatus.

MIKE MUSZYNSKI: Sure.

REP. DARGAN: Whether you come from a volunteer community, or a career community, I think the most important thing is if you're representing that community, you should have the proper equipment that works.

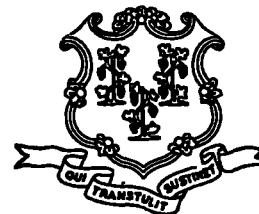
SB103

MIKE MUSZYNSKI: Of course.

REP. DARGAN: Because I've been to a in-the-line-of-duty death of a Waterbury firefighter of some equipment failure, and those are not fun to go to, whether it is law enforcement or fire service personnel. And I don't think that it's proper for firefighters to be driving around in an SUV with a 16-foot ladder on the top of their SUV, and saying this is proper fire apparatus.



## Department of Consumer Protection



**Public Safety & Security Committee Public Hearing  
February 18, 2014**

**Senate Bill 100, "An Act Concerning Bazaars and Raffles"**

### **Testimony of William M. Rubenstein, Commissioner of Consumer Protection**

Sen. Hartley, Rep. Dargan, Sen. Guglielmo, Rep. Giegler and honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am William M. Rubenstein, Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 100, "An Act Concerning Bazaars and Raffles." This proposal was submitted to your committee from the Department of Consumer Protection, so let me begin by thanking you for agreeing to raise this bill for your consideration.

This bill makes several minor changes to the Bazaars and Raffles statutes designed to improve and streamline the application process as well as to make it easier for charitable organizations to advertise and conduct authorized gaming activities.

The first change I'd like to discuss involves streamlining the application process that charitable organizations use when seeking a permit to conduct a bazaar or raffle. Under present law, a charity begins the application process by appearing at its municipality and submitting two, duplicate applications---along with two separate checks

to pay the state and municipal fees as set forth in statute. The municipality then completes background checks on the members of the organization and if found satisfactory, forwards one of the applications, along with the state fee, to the Department of Consumer Protection. The Department will then review the application for compliance with state laws and regulations, and if satisfactory, will send the approval and permit back to the municipality. At the same time, the Department notifies the applicant that the Department has approved the permit and instructs the applicant that he or she must return to the municipality to pick-up the permit. This cumbersome process is burdensome, time-consuming and makes for difficulty in tracking the paperwork submitted by the applicant.

The Department's proposal streamlines the process without affecting the fees received by either state or municipality, improves paper flow, and eases the process for the charitable organization. Specifically, this bill would allow the organization to apply for a permit directly to DCP (via U.S. Mail, and ultimately "on-line"), with one application and one check for all fees. Once received, the Department would review the application for compliance with state laws & regulations, and if satisfactory, would send the permit and a copy of the application to the municipality. The municipality would then conduct the background investigation. DCP would notify the applicant that the Department has processed the application, and forwarded the permit to the municipality. It would then be up to the applicant to pick-up the signed permit from the municipality. In this new process, the Department assumes responsibility for accepting checks from applicants, and will forward funds to the towns in the same amount set under current law.

Additionally, we propose to streamline the post-event verification statements that are statutorily required. Currently, organizations are required to provide these statements to the municipalities, which in turn, forward them to DCP. We propose to allow the applicants to submit the statements directly to DCP for post-event review by our professional staff and make those statements available to local municipalities and law enforcement officials, as well as to the public. This change shortens the process and relieves a burden on local law enforcement, while still allowing municipal oversight whenever it is so desired.

We propose another change to make it easier for charitable organizations to conduct bazaars and raffles. Specifically, this bill eases the current requirement that members of a sponsoring organization must be "electors of the municipality" in which the event will occur. Instead we substitute that requirement with one simply requiring that members must be "residents of the State of Connecticut."

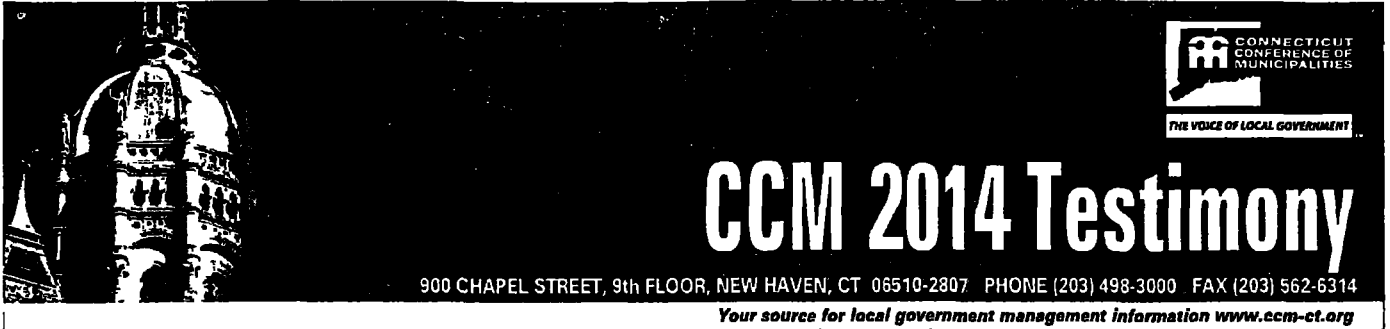
Another proposal eases the requirement pertaining to the location where Bazaars and Raffles may be held. This bill proposes to allow "any qualified organization" to have their event in a municipality other than the municipality which grants the permit, so long

as the chief of police or the chief executive officer of the other municipality has approved the event in writing. Under present law, certain organizations, specifically: church groups, volunteer fire companies and veterans' organizations may avail themselves of this ability. Our proposal makes it permissible for "any qualified sponsoring organization" to do so.

Finally, this bill proposes to repeal an unnecessary and frustrating statute pertaining to a qualified organization's ability to advertise an upcoming bazaar or raffle. Sec. 7-179 currently prohibits many commonly-used methods of advertising such as billboards, email, or internet webpages. The Department receives numerous complaints from frustrated organizations that are impeded from advertising their event by this statute, and as such we find no reason to retain these unnecessary restrictions.

In closing, the Department is pleased to offer this bill for your consideration in an effort to assist charitable organizations by simplifying and streamlining the process to apply for and to conduct bazaars and raffles.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



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## ***PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE***

February 18, 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 100 - "An Act Concerning Bazaars and Raffles"***

This proposal would, among other things, modify the permit fee amounts remitted between the State and municipalities. CCM has concerns with Section 3 of this proposal, which lists the various permit classes and would alter the fee-sharing structure.

It is no secret that towns and cities have faced historically difficult budgets in recent years. To this end, CCM asks that the Committee first obtain a detailed analysis on the potential impact this proposal would have on local budgets to ensure SB 100 would, at the least, have a revenue neutral impact on our hometowns.

CCM therefore, urges the Committee to ***take not action*** on SB 100 until further analysis is conducted.

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