

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-143

HB5593

Senate	3086, 3094-3096	4
Finance, Revenue & Bonding	323-324, 435	3
House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400		7

**Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
PART 9
2751 – 3097**

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SENATE

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May 4, 2016

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 6, Calendar 391, House Bill 5456,
I'd like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 8, Calendar 416, 5423, I'd like to
place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 8, Calendar 418, House Bill 5364,
I'd like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 11, Calendar 449, House Bill 5593,
I'd like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

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May 4, 2016

THE CHAIR:

All right. Mr. Clerk, will call the Consent Calendar. The machines will be open.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

(Inaudible comment.)

THE CHAIR:

Okay. Just get going. It's getting there. It's getting there. You've got to call for a vote. Okay. She's pulling it up, she's pulling it up.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, if the Clerk can just read the bill numbers and not the titles, that would be great.

THE CHAIR:

That's right. Okay.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5470, House Bill [inaudible], 5423,
[inaudible], 5593, 5360, 5311, 5359, 5366, 5317,
5329, [inaudible], 5438, 5637, 5520, 5553, 5510,
5420, 5540, 5484, 5306, 5289, 5639, 5147, 5411,
5055, [inaudible], 5479, 5138, 5189.

(HB5356) (HB5629)

(HB5433) (HB5291)

(HB5601) (HB5051)

(HB5638) (HB5556)

(HB5261) (HB5596)

(HB5259) (HB5444)

THE CHAIR:

Okay.

(Applause.)

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The machine is open.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, I need to add one more. Calendar 513, page 19, Calendar 513, House bill 5553.

THE CHAIR:

It's already on Consent, sir. May I open the machines to vote.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

I need to, does the Clerk have agendas 6 and 7?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

THE CLERK:

The Clerk has Senate Agenda 6 and 7. They have been printed and on Senators' desks and dated Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, I move that all items on Senate Agendas 6 and 7, dated Wednesday, May 4, 2016, be

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acted upon as indicated and the Agenda be incorporated by reference in the Senate Journal and transcript and placed immediately on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call is ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Come on, come on, come on. Crisco, Crisco, Crisco.
Where's Crisco? Where is Crisco? Come on Joe.

All members have voted? All members have voted?
The machine will be closed. The Consent Calendar passed.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 3 [inaudible].

(Applause.)

THE CHAIR:

I almost [inaudible] holding the clock back. Don't worry about it [inaudible] it. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, I move that we adjourn Sine Die.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
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REP. ORANGE (48TH): Thank you.

AL HAWKINS: Thank you very much for your time.

REP. BERGER (73RD): To the public portion of the list. David Dietsch and John Chaponis from Connecticut Association of Assessors.

DAVID DIETSCH: Good afternoon. I'm David Dietsch. I'm the Assessor for the City of Waterbury. I'm joined by John Chaponis, the Assessor in the town of Colchester. We are here on behalf of assessors statewide as co-chairs of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers and we are here in support of H.B. No. 5593. This bill is technical in nature and proposes to make a few changes regarding the application procedure for elderly property tax relief.

If adopted, these changes would extend the initial submission deadline for the application from March 15 to April 15, it would extend the deadline for the date the assessor needs to notify and send out a reminder to those that haven't filed from April 1 to April 30th and would allow us to mail certified, a certificate of mail rather than certified mail to those people that have not yet responded yet and I'm going to let John give you the real life reasoning for the proposed changes.

JOHN CHAPONIS: Elderly tax relief is based on the applicant's income and applicants are required to provide a copy of their federal income tax return to the local assessor when they file the application. Many of the elderly don't file their income tax until the April 15th due date, so it doesn't make a lot of sense to have the assessor sending out a certified letter prior to the April 15th due date.

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In fact, you know, the elderly are a lot more frugal than, than some of the younger people today and we actually send the certified letters out and we have people come into our office, pounding on the counter, yelling at us, why did you spend eight bucks sending me a certified letter? I haven't filed my federal income tax yet.

So, by pushing these dates out we sort of alleviate that problem. We also would like to -- I don't think in the past, you know, a certificate of mailing was an option. It costs \$8.60 to send certified mail, but it's only \$1.35 to send a certificate of mailing. So, it would be a huge cost savings measure to, to pass this bill because, (a), you'll be spending, you know, two eighths of what you were spending in the past to send it, and by pushing it out 30 days, a lot more of the applicants will have come in and filed on their own.

For anyone who might not be familiar, we've already sent them the initial notice telling them they have to file back in February, so they've been notified. They know they need to come in. This is referring just to a late notice reminder that we're required by statute to send out to the elderly.

Thank you. Any questions?

REP. BERGER (73RD): Thank you. Just as a followup, Dave. So, the way 5593 is currently drafted, it meets the requirements, pretty much the threefold requirements that you anticipate as the "fix"?

DAVID DIETSCH: Yes, it does.

REP. BERGER (73RD): Any other questions or comments from the committee members? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony.



**Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers, Inc.
Legislative Committee**

David M. Dietsch, CCMA II
John Chaponis, CCMA II

***Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 5593 AAC THE REAPPLICATION
PROCEDURE FOR ELDERLY PROPERTY TAX RELIEF***

Dear Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Berger, and members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

The Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers ask for your support of HB 5593 An Act Concerning the Reapplication Procedure for Elderly Property Tax Relief.

This bill is technical in nature and has absolutely no down side. Approving these amendments creates the following:

- **Extending the date Elderly submit their claim application by 30 days**
- **Extending the date Assessor must mail certified reminder to claimant**
- **Allows the Assessor to send reminder via certificate of mailing (rather than certified)**

Since the Elderly Tax Relief is based on the applicants' income, applicants are required to provide their IRS Income Tax Return which is not due with the IRS until April 15th. It makes little sense to require Elderly Applicants to file a claim with the Assessor prior to April 15th because their IRS tax return may not exist yet.

It makes even less sense to require the Assessor to send a late notice reminder, via certified mail, prior to April 15th.

A "certificate of mailing" costs \$1.35 versus certified mail at \$8.60. Requiring Assessors to send a late notice reminding applicants to file, via a "certificate of mailing", is an excellent cost savings measure while accomplishing the same goal of proving the reminder notice was actually sent to the claimant.

C.A.A.O. would like to thank the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee for raising HB 5593 and hope these technical changes can be implemented.

Respectfully,

Legislative Chairman, Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers
David Dietsch, CCMA II, Assessor, City of Waterbury
John Chaponis, CCMA II, Assessor, Town of Colchester