



## PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2021

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 representing 168 towns and cities.

### **HB 6302 An Act Concerning The Regionalization Of Certain Public Safety Emergency Telecommunications Centers And A Study Of Consolidation.**

CCM **supports** HB 6302 which would commission a study amongst state and local leaders regarding the regionalization of public safety answering points (PSAPs).

Local officials strive for efficient means to operate local governments, however, they equally require the option to determine how best to manage those communities. Meaningful recommendations or incentives need to help lay a path for the successful consolidation of municipal services.

CCM appreciates the group responsible for developing the study would include local officials. CCM would urge the group once they convene to consider the following:

- PSAP Consolidation should be voluntary, not forced;
- As labor issues have been an impediment to consolidation in the past, support utilizing existing laws which relate to how regional health districts are consolidated as a frame of reference and apply it to the consolidation of PSAPs;
- Rules of governance for newly consolidated PSAPs would be resolved using existing laws related to the consolidation of local health department/districts rules of governance;
- Address the issue of dark stations and prisoner observations by rationalizing that if consolidation offers a greater state financial savings, money savings can be used to transfer prisoners from municipal holding facilities directly to state holdings regardless of the time of day (which has been a discontinued practice over the years)

CCM believes that if it is determined for an opportunity to realize significant savings in the regional consolidation of PSAPs, state incentives should be considered for upfront costs through a deliberate and thoughtful process.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report** HB 6302

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, State and Federal Relations Manager of CCM at [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or 203-500-7556.