

## Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut, Inc.

### Please SUPPORT SB 818, Suspending DEEP's Civil Penalties on Businesses for First-Time Administrative Regulation Violations (Passed Commerce 21-0)

(A virtually identical bill, SB 285, was passed by Environment 24-6)

**SB 818 requires DEEP to suspend civil penalties for certain regulatory violations, provided the business remedies the violation within 6 months.** Under the bill, the suspension of such penalties does not apply to (A) any willful or grossly negligent violation, (B) any violation that results in harm to human health or the environment, or (C) any penalty required under federal law or regulation. Thus, the suspension applies only to paperwork or other non-harmful violations.

- Often, the regulations with which we must comply and the permits themselves issued pursuant to them are lengthy and complex. Many, especially small, businesses do not have teams of lawyers, engineers and regulatory compliance staff. They need education more than regulatory command and controls and civil penalties.
- Suspending civil penalties for paperwork and other administrative violations should be used as a “teaching moment” without penalizing the offender.
- **This is a reasonable, rational approach that will improve the relationship between DEEP and the regulated community.**

### Please SUPPORT HB 5584, Creating a Small Business Hotline Within DECD (Passed Commerce 20-1)

**HB 5584 charges DECD (Dept of Economic & Community Development) to establish and operate a small business hotline.** The hotline is to provide prospective and existing small business owners with individualized information and guidance regarding business formation and development, networking resources and technical and financial assistance from the state and quasi-public agencies. Note: the one “no” vote thought the bill would compete with private business advisors, such as law firms and accountants.

- Some of the most challenging things faced by a new entrepreneur or any small business is navigating through government's vast regulatory environment, or how to expand their network of business associates or new customers, or how to secure financing from a variety of sources.
- **HB 5584's small business hotline will greatly help many business entrepreneurs and is likely to lead to more business successes across the state.** Small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy, will then be able to help turn CT around.

### Please SUPPORT HB 7063, Requiring Certain Information in the Notice of Intended Action for Proposed Regulations (Passed Commerce 21-0; Gov't Admin & Elections 17-0)

**HB 7063 simply requires all state agencies, when posting their notices of proposed regulations, to include a plain language description or flow chart, or both, of the proposal. It also requires a plain language summary of the primary compliance requirements under the proposed regulations.**

- **This common sense requirement will help many small businesses and the general public better understand what are often very lengthy and highly detailed and complex state regulations.**

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Home Builders & Remodelers Assoc. of CT, 3 Regency Drive, Suite 204, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

Bill Ethier, CEO: [bethier@hbact.org](mailto:bethier@hbact.org); 860-216-5858 (office); 860-978-3252 (cell)

HBRAC's Vision: “Building CT's Economy, Communities & Better Lives One Home at a Time.”

HBRAC's Mission: “Using Effective Advocacy & New Knowledge to Solve our Member's Problems.”