

Stamford Plus, Rep. O'Neill's bills pass the Judiciary Committee (4.2.12)

HARTFORD, CT - State Representative Arthur J. O'Neill (R-69) thanked the Judiciary Committee today for moving two important bills one step closer to becoming law. The bills sponsored by Rep. O'Neill mark a fundamental change in two essential State systems: condominium voting and water vessel registration and financing.

Following a Public Hearing on March 29, the Judiciary Committee today favorably voted on HB 5511 – AAC the Budget, Special Assessment and Assignment of Future Income Approval Process in Common Interest Ownership Communities.

The bill requires the budget of a common interest community, such as a condominium complex, to be approved by a majority of the unit owners voting instead of a majority of total unit owners, which is what the law currently states. This system essentially renders non-voters automatically counted as yes votes – a practice that is fundamentally undemocratic. The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

“I thank the Democratic and Republican members of the Judiciary Committee for moving this important bill forward. The current condominium voting law is undemocratic and unfair to condominium owners as it does not allow the majority of voters to determine the fate of a budget. This bill aims to prevent abstaining voters from bearing weight on the outcome of an election, as should be the case. I am hopeful that this bill will pass in the legislature so that condo owners can cast meaningful and representative votes on their budgets.” Rep. O'Neill said.

Also voted out of the Judiciary Committee today is SB 418 – An Act Adopting the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act. The bill has a dual purpose. First, it creates a registration system that includes a certificate of title requirement for water vessels. Secondly, it grants the ability to record mortgages on boats in order to help individuals obtain financing for commercial and non-commercial boats in excess of 19 ½ feet or greater in length.

“This bill is a product of the Law Revision Commission and has been thoroughly reviewed and vetted for logistical effectiveness. As the Chairman of the Law Revision Commission, it was my pleasure to introduce it to the Judiciary Committee in an effort to modernize boat registration in

the State of Connecticut and make it easier for individuals to obtain financing for purchases.”
Rep. O’Neill said.

The bill will now move to the State Senate for further consideration.

Rep. O’Neill is the House Republican Leader-at-Large and a former Ranking Member on the legislature’s Judiciary Committee. He is currently the Chairman of the Law Revision Committee.

Rep. O’Neill represents Bridgewater, Southbury, Roxbury and Washington