



**Susan Bysiewicz**  
Secretary of the State  
Connecticut

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## **BYSIEWICZ PRAISES GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S OVERWHELMING PASSAGE OF PENALTY INCREASE FOR ILLEGAL BUSINESS PRACTICES, URGES GOVERNOR TO SIGN BILL**

BILL WOULD RAISE FINES BY 82%, TOUGHEN DETERRENT AGAINST FRAUD  
BY OUT OF STATE COMPANIES, LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR CT BUSINESSES

**Hartford:** Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today praised both houses of the General Assembly for overwhelmingly passing House Bill # 6640 which increases the penalty on out-of-state companies operating illegally in Connecticut by 82%. Specifically, the bill would increase the monthly fine for any foreign corporation doing business in Connecticut without registering with the Secretary of the State's Office to \$300/month. Currently, the fine is \$165/month.

"As our state's chief business registrar, ensuring fair competition for Connecticut businesses is one of my top priorities," said Secretary Bysiewicz. "Out of state firms who don't register with my office are operating illegally and have an unfair competitive over Connecticut-based companies who play by the rules. This bill improves accountability for Connecticut consumers and gives us a stronger deterrent to level the playing field for in-state businesses who are struggling to succeed in a difficult economy. I congratulate the General Assembly for overwhelmingly passing this bill and I urge Governor Rell to sign it into law."

In the last two years Bysiewicz's office, working with Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, has collected nearly \$3 million in fines from out-of-state companies operating illegally in Connecticut. Bysiewicz estimates that the enactment of HB # 6640 could result in nearly \$1,000,000 in additional revenue for taxpayers every year.