



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY OF
ROBERT L. CURTIS DIRECTOR OF LABOR RELATIONS
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Raised Bill No. 617 An Act Concerning Collective Bargaining Regarding The Pensions Of Assistant State's Attorneys, Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys And Juvenile Prosecutors.

OPM has concerns with SB 617. Pensions are currently negotiated via a coalition of all bargaining units that represent state employees from all branches of government. The plan is three tiered; however all state employees are treated uniformly within their tier of the plan. The administration of the plan(s) is less complicated than if each bargaining unit was allowed a separate plan.

The allowance of any single bargaining unit to negotiate outside the coalition on this topic would lead to issues of freezing current employee benefits under the current plan (those from the Division of Criminal Justice). This could involve questions of vesting – whether an employee has requisite years of service in the current plan to be entitled to future pension. It would involve questions of service credit under any new plan. Generally the past service under the existing plan would not be applicable under the new plan. Transition therefore becomes a significant issue.

The bill segregates only one segment of the Division of Criminal Justice from the current pension plan(s) to allow a single bargaining unit negotiation rights on the subject of pensions. We urge rejection of this bill.