

**OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS' STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO
Bill 5506. AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL ETHICS PILOT PROGRAM**

This bill would increase the jurisdiction of the Office of State Ethics to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics at the municipal level. It would seek ten municipalities of various populations, large and small, to volunteer to participate in a pilot program in which the Office of State Ethics would enforce the ethics codes adopted by the volunteer municipalities by handling complaints alleging violations of those codes to the same extent the agency has the power to investigate and enforce violations at the state level.

The Office of State Ethics generally supports the creation of programs to strengthen the public's trust in government at the local level but is concerned about the impact that any increased responsibility to enforce the Code of Ethics at the municipal level would have on the resources of the Office of State Ethics. This bill would significantly tax the resources of the enforcement division of the Office not least because it would require the Office to enforce ten different ethics codes, since each of the participating municipalities would first adopt its own code, in addition to the State Code.

For further information please contact: Carol Carson, Executive Director, Office of State Ethics, or Barbara Housen, General Counsel, Office of State Ethics, at 860-566-4472; 860-566-3806 (fax).