



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Written Testimony of Raeanne V. Curtis
Commissioner of Public Works
Government Administration and Elections Committee
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Raeanne V. Curtis
Commissioner

Senate Bill 677: AAC The Use of State Computers on Nonstate Property

The Department of Public Works (DPW) strongly opposes Senate Bill 677 and respectfully offers the following comments. Foremost, the terms of this bill are vague and need to be more specifically defined. For example, "place of employment" can mean a variety of places in the context of state employment. A majority of state agencies are housed in leased facilities which are not under the ownership of the state. This bill assumes that places of employment are state property and that is not the case. The terms "personal and confidential" also need to be clearly defined.

Second, there are several types of portable devices that extend beyond computers. Many portable devices are used to store and access information vital to our job functions. It should be noted that these portable devices are encrypted and the department follows the guidelines for portable devices as established by the Department of Information Technology. Our goal is to serve our client agencies in the areas of construction and facilities management. Limiting the use of these devices would severely curtail the mobility and accessibility of our workforce in providing optimal service to our client agencies and the citizens of the State of Connecticut.

Third, many employees at DPW spend half their time working in the field. In our department, laptop computers are a necessary component for our project management staff to achieve efficient field operations. Having portable devices such as laptops and blackberries have allowed our employees to perform their duties when they are away from their assigned offices and in the field. Use of such devices has saved time, travel and duplication of efforts. Operations in the field simply would not occur as smoothly as they do now if this bill is passed.

Lastly, the department feels that this bill has been raised as an overreaction to recent thefts of portable devices which included personal information. As a policy, the portable devices at DPW do not contain personal information. Further, the encryption technology on our devices has been installed to protect any information from getting into the wrong hands in the event the devices are lost or stolen.

I would ask that the committee consider my testimony closely as I have outlined just a few reasons why this bill would severely hamper the operations of the Department of Public Works. Our goal as an agency is to constantly find ways to improve our services and make our work more efficient. Passage of this bill would severely undercut all of our efforts to make that happen.

Thank you for your time.