



State of Connecticut

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Testimony of Senator Rob Kane (R-32)

SB 374, AAC FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDITS OF MUNICIPALITIES

Planning & Development Committee

March 3, 2008

Senator Coleman, Representative Feltman and members of the Planning & Development Committee, thank you for holding today's public hearing on *SB 374, An Act Concerning Financial and Management Audits of Municipalities*.

This legislation, which I am co-sponsoring, calls for requiring each municipality that receives more than 35 percent of its annual operating budget from the state to submit to a state audit. Each audit would include any recommendations for programmatic and management efficiencies, and financial improvements.

Every municipality counts on the state's financial assistance to provide services and programs, and to run its schools. But there are some municipalities that are highly dependent on the state's financial assistance and these, I believe, warrant special attention from the state auditors.

Because our state taxpayer dollars play such a large role in paying for the operating budgets of these communities, it makes sense to demand a close accounting of how this money is being spent. In some cases, these municipalities might benefit from recommendations by the state auditors with respect to financial improvements and management efficiencies.

Connecticut's taxpayers have the right to know that their tax dollars are being spent wisely, and I believe it is the General Assembly's responsibility to provide this assurance. This legislation would put in place a system of checks and balances that would help to achieve the goal of accountability.

Thank you for considering this legislation.