



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

H.B. 5373

**An Act Expanding Certain Reverse Auction Authority to the
Purchase of Services by Towns, School Districts and State Agencies**

H.B. 5949

**AAC the Country of Manufacture for
Flags Displayed on Public Buildings**

**Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 23, 2009**

As the agency responsible for statewide procurement, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) offers the following testimony regarding **House Bill 5373, An Act Expanding Certain Reverse Auction Authority to the Purchase of Services by Towns, School Districts and State Agencies**. DAS supported the legislation enacted last year, Public Act 08-141, that gave DAS and other contracting agencies the authority to conduct on-line reverse auctions in connection with the award of contracts for good and supplies when the contracting agency determines that the use of a reverse auction is advantageous to the contracting agency and will ensure a competitive contract award.

Similarly, **DAS supports House Bill 5373**, which expands the authority to conduct on-line reverse auctions to the award of contracts for services. DAS acknowledges that on-line reverse auctions may not be the best mechanism for awarding contracts for services in all cases; however, where the award of a service contract will be driven exclusively by price, an on-line reverse auction may indeed be the most advantageous method of awarding the contract. House Bill 5373 simply gives towns, school districts and state agencies another tool to help them reduce costs.

DAS would also like to take this opportunity to state its support for **House Bill 5949, An Act Concerning the Country of Manufacture for Flags Displayed on Public Buildings**. DAS awards and administers a contract for flags for state agencies and municipalities to use. Currently, one vendor is on this contract. Although this contract does not explicitly limit where the flags should be manufactured, the flags are, in fact, made in the United States. If this bill passes, DAS will amend the contract to state this requirement explicitly.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these bills. Please contact DAS's legislative liaison, Andrea Keilty (713-5267), if you have any questions about this testimony.