



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS' STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL NO. 6696 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ETHICS

The primary purpose of this bill is to require each municipality to adopt a code of ethical conduct for its public officials, public employees and paid consultants. The Office of State Ethics ("OSE") supports passage of Raised Bill No. 6696, and respectfully requests that the following comments be considered.

The OSE supports the requirement to have each municipality adopt a code of ethical conduct as an important step in strengthening public confidence in the integrity, transparency and fairness of all levels of government. The proposed requirement incorporates basic standards for a municipal ethics code with respect to conflicts of interest. The basic standards articulate well established precepts for ethical conduct of government business regardless of the size of a municipality or any other political subdivision.

Although the OSE is supportive in principle of the requirements of section 6 of Raised Bill 6696, where OSE will be potentially responsible for review of each municipality's code of ethics for compliance with this proposed legislation, such review may require additional resources to meet the proposed deadlines. In the alternative, considering OSE's current staffing, the same objective could be achieved if the proposed deadlines were changed to adequately accommodate the required review of submitted codes of ethics and filing of the report regarding municipal compliance.

For further information please contact: Carol Carson, Executive Director, Office of State Ethics, or Barbara Housen, General Counsel, Office of State Ethics, at 860-263-2400; 860-263-2402 (fax).