



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2009

*Michael J. Cicchetti, Deputy Secretary
Office of Policy and Management (OPM)*

*Concerning Proposed Bill No. 5864
(AN ACT CONCERNING REMISSION OF FUNDS TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS)*

Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning Proposed Bill No. 5864, which would increase the amount of revenue that the State remits to municipalities for various motor vehicle violations.

As you know, §51-56a provides for the collection of an additional \$10 fee that the State remits to municipalities in which various violations occur. Fines imposed for violations under the following statutes are subject to the payment of this additional fee: §14-218a, §14-219, §14-222, §14-223, §14-227a, §14-230 to §14-240, inclusive, §14-241 to §14-249, inclusive, §14-289b, §14-299, §14-301, §14-302 and §14-303, as well as a first offense under §14-279.

These fines are applicable to a wide range of motor vehicle moving violations, such as speeding, reckless driving, failing to stop for a school bus displaying flashing red signal lights, or operating a motor vehicle while having an elevated blood alcohol content or while under the influence of drugs. The amounts of these statutory fines vary depending on the severity of a particular violation or the number of prior occurrences.

Changing the \$10 additional fee that the State remits to municipalities to a percentage of the amount of the fines imposed for these violations would result in a decrease in the State's General Fund. At a time when we are anticipating unprecedented budget deficits, the State cannot afford such a loss. For this reason, OPM must oppose this bill.