



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

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Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 6602

AN ACT CONCERNING AGENCY REGULATIONS, A CLARIFICATION OF
"DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITY" AND OBSOLETE STATUTES CONCERNING THE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 6602, AN ACT CONCERNING AGENCY REGULATIONS, A CLARIFICATION OF "DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITY" AND OBSOLETE STATUTES CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

This bill makes a variety of changes to statutes affecting the Office of Policy and Management. First, the bill eliminates the requirement that when an agency provides notice of intent to adopt a regulation that it do so by mail and to allow an agency to provide an electronic version of a proposed regulation to persons requesting a copy. As state government moves more and more toward electronic provision of information, this seems a common-sense modification to the statute.

Second, this bill clarifies that airport development zones are not intended to receive distressed municipality benefits.

Third, the bill repeals statutes concerning the Connecticut Progress Council. The Connecticut Progress Council has not convened in many years and has not submitted biennial benchmarks to OPM and the General Assembly. OPM recommends that the statutes either be repealed or amended to incorporate the

General Assembly's efforts relating to Results Based Accountability, which efforts are similar though not identical to the Connecticut Progress Council.

Lastly, the bill eliminates redundant deficit reporting requirements. OPM publishes monthly budget forecasts per Sec. 4-66 of the general statutes, as well as monthly letters regarding deficient accounts per Sec. 2-36 of the general statutes. The Comptroller also publishes monthly forecasts per Sec. 3-115 of the general statutes. Lastly, the legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis is available to provide periodic forecasts to the legislature, and OFA has recently begun publishing monthly forecasts of the state's fiscal position. Given all of these existing reports, the requirement in Sec. 4-82a for the Governor to report to the General Assembly three times annually (October, January and April 30th) on whether a deficit is projected is redundant and therefore is recommended for repeal.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.