DAS
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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Senate Bill 977
An Act Concerning Public Works Projects and Contracting Preferences

House Bill 6347
An Act Concerning the Enforcement of the Family and Medical Leave Act for State Employees

Labor & Public Employees Committee
March 3, 2011

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) offers the following testimony regarding the following two bills on the Committee's agenda.

Senate Bill 977 - *AAC Public Works Projects and Contracting Preferences*

Senate Bill 977 would require DAS, in consultation with the Commissioners of Labor, Public Works, and Transportation, to study and submit a report to the Committees of cognizance on any factors that may put in-state vendors at a disadvantage in obtaining state contracts. DAS agrees that it makes sense to analyze the underlying causes that make it difficult for in-state vendors to compete on state contracts and we would be happy to participate in this study group. Indeed, my Procurement staff has begun scheduling informal meetings with various Connecticut contractors, and stakeholders to review our current prequalification and contracting processes. My hope is that these discussions will yield administrative and legislative recommendations that will make our current processes more "business-friendly" and more accessible to all interested contractors and vendors.

My office is happy to meet with the proponents of this bill to discuss these matters in more detail.

House Bill 6347 - *AAC the Enforcement of the Family and Medical Leave Act for State Employees.*

House Bill 6347 gives the Connecticut Department of Labor authority to adjudicate complaints brought by State of Connecticut employees who believe that they were denied leave rights under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 5-248a, (the provision of the State Personnel Act that gives "family and medical leave" rights to state employees). As the agency responsible for training state agencies and employees about the provisions of § 5-248a, DAS supports House Bill 6347 because it clarifies the complaint process under this statute, an issue that has been ambiguous for several years.

Thank you for your consideration of DAS's views on these bills.