



**Public Hearing Written Testimony of
Dennis C. Murphy, Acting Commissioner**

**Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 15, 2011**

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **Senate Bill 361 AA Preventing the Use of Credit Scores by Certain Employers in Hiring Decisions**. My name is Dennis C. Murphy and I am the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

This bill seeks to increase job opportunities for individuals who are seeking employment with employers who are not financial institutions. While the Department understands the purpose of this bill, there may be a fiscal impact on the Department. The bill permits an employee or perspective employee to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner alleging a violation of the bill. At the request of either party, the Commissioner shall hold a hearing. According to the bill, the result of such a hearing will be the assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of \$300.00. It is unclear how many hearings will be held. However, if a hearing is requested, the Department must hold a hearing. The aggrieved party may then appeal to the Superior Court. Holding a mandated hearing for a civil penalty of \$300.00 will impose a burden of the Department and may require additional staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you need additional information.