



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE GERALD M. FOX, III
146TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 2502
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 203-921-1266
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 800-842-8267
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Gerald.Fox@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*Testimony of Representative Gerald Fox, III of Stamford
Before the Public Safety and Security Committee on House Bill 6270,
An Act Concerning the Collection of Delinquent Taxes and Lottery Winnings.*

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I would like to thank the committee for raising HB 6270, **AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES AND LOTTERY WINNINGS**.

In 2006, the Connecticut General Assembly and the Governor enacted PA 06-149. This law allowed the Connecticut Lottery Corporation to check the Child Support database from the Department of Social Services, and use lottery proceeds to satisfy any child support obligations. This program has been extremely successful, netting millions of dollars for the children in need.

The proposal before you applies a similar process to those owing delinquent income taxes. The bill, if enacted, would provide that the Connecticut Lottery Corporation check a tax delinquency database compiled by the Department of Revenue Services prior to paying winnings and satisfy any owed taxes out of such lottery winnings. It is a small bill, but it makes sense on several levels.

First, the Connecticut Lottery Corporation is a quasi-public agency that owes a duty to the general public. Second, each taxpayer has a duty to every other taxpayer to pay his or her fair share, so that the burden does not fall too heavily on others. When you put the two together it makes perfect sense that someone who owes taxes to the State should pay such taxes if they are lucky enough to win in a lottery.

The state faces unprecedented fiscal challenges and I anticipate that many good programs and services will be cut in the next biennial budget. This simple bill will not only raise some revenue for the state, but will also go a long way to ensure the confidence and the fairness of our tax system.

I look forward to working with the committee, the Department of Revenue and Services and the Connecticut Lottery Corporation on this proposal, and ask for your favorable report.