



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## ***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS***

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 6395

### **HOUSE BILL NO. 6395 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EARNED INTEREST ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES FUND**

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Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 6395, *An Act Concerning The Administration Of Earned Interest On The Principle Of The Soldiers, Sailors, And Marines Fund*.

This statutory change will allow any interest earned in excess of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund's agency expenditure level to be transferred, by the Comptroller, to the General Fund in a given fiscal year until the balance due to the General Fund is depleted.

Since FY2003, the interest earnings on the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund (SSMF) corpus have not been sufficient to cover the funds necessary for staff salaries, fringe benefits, operating expenses, and veteran award payments. By this occurrence, the General Fund (GF) has subsidized all additional expenses, which have grown to a cumulative level of approximately \$4,000,000.

In an attempt to begin to mitigate this issue, the proposed statutory change would allow a transfer of funds, from the SSMF to the GF, as long as an outstanding cumulative balance due to the GF exists. In doing so, this proposal would expand the duties of the Comptroller, potentially relieve the burden placed on the GF, and control future spending for the SSMF.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. I appreciate your consideration.