



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 7, 2011**

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Secretary
Office of Policy and Management*

**Testimony Concerning Governor's Bill No. 6495
AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS STATE PROPERTY**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Governor's Bill No. 6495 – An Act Concerning the Disposition of Surplus State Property.

The purpose of the bill is to provide OPM with six (6) months prior notice before property is declared surplus, to provide notice to the regional planning agencies that property has been declared surplus and allow them to make recommendations to OPM regarding its use, to allow DECD to take property for economic development purposes and to require OPM to perform a cost vs. benefit analysis when deciding to dispose of a surplus property.

OPM does not oppose the concepts behind the proposed bill; requiring agencies to provide OPM with 6 months notification before declaring property to be surplus will speed the disposition process and reduce the time buildings sit vacant. Providing the regional planning agencies with notification that property has been declared surplus and allowing them to make non-binding recommendations regarding its future use is something with which we can easily comply; and we do not oppose allowing DECD to take surplus property for economic development purposes.

However, it must be noted that OPM does not currently have funds to perform the cost vs. benefit analysis envisioned in the proposed bill; therefore, if it is the intent of the Legislature such analysis be unquestionably be performed for each property to be sold, then it is incumbent upon the Legislature to allocate funds for that purpose.

It should also be noted that the proposed bill is one of three bills currently being proposed which would change the process by which the State disposes of its surplus property; the other bills are #5371 "An Act Requiring the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Prior to the Sale of Surplus Property" and proposed bill #5977 "An Act Streamlining the Process for the State sale or Transfer of Surplus Property".

OPM agrees that the process to dispose of surplus State property takes far too long; ultimately however, we believe that any changes to the existing surplus property statute (CGS 4b-21) must be

done holistically and we should endeavor to ensure that the various bills (#5977, #6495 and #5371) are not working at cross purposes.

I will be happy to make my staff available to meet with any necessary party to offer our suggestions and language which would, in our opinion, streamline the process for disposing of surplus State property.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding this bill.