



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
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*Benjamin Barnes
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management*

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 1009

AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 1009, AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

This bill creates the Office of Governmental Accountability by consolidating all functions and services provided by the State Elections Enforcement Commission, the Office of State Ethics, the Freedom of Information Commission, the Judicial Review Counsel, and the Contracting Standards Board.

To be effective and maintain the public's trust it is imperative that Connecticut state government be open, transparent and accessible. Our "watch-dog agencies" do an excellent job, but that doesn't mean they can't be more cost effective. Protecting the public's interest also means eliminating redundancies. Through the creation of the Office of Governmental Accountability, we will enhance the watch-dogs' efforts by merging back office functions, while preserving their separate missions.

Passage of this bill will:

- Establish the Office of Governmental Accountability (OGA) in order to streamline state government and strengthen enforcement and compliance practices through information and knowledge sharing.
- Consolidate those agencies and programs whose primary mission is to enforce honesty, integrity, and accountability within OGA:

- The State Elections Enforcement Commission, which monitors the state's electoral process, inspects campaign finance records, and administers a grant program for candidates running in statewide elections;
- The Office of State Ethics, which enforces the State of Connecticut's Code of Ethics;
- The Freedom of Information Commission, which ensures citizen's access to public records and enforces the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA);
- The Judicial Review Council, which specifically investigates misconduct of judges, family support magistrates, and workers' compensation commissioners, is also included in this consolidation;
- The Contracting Standards Board that investigates contracting and procurement procedures.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.