

**Appropriations Committee
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Governor's Bill 6354
An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations
Concerning General Government**

**Friday, March 22, 2013
10:00 AM in Room 2C**

**Testimony of John Nolan, Jr.
Project Manager and Building Official
Department of Construction Services**

Good Morning Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Miner, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is John Nolan and I am a Project Manager and Building Official at the Department of Construction Services (DCS), formerly known as the Department of Public Works. I have been with the Department for 28 years.

I am in agreement with the written testimony submitted by Bruce Bockstael, the Chief Architect of DCS. Mr. Bockstael opposes the proposed Bill's language that reassigns DCS project management staff and duties to the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and the State Department of Education (SDE).

To clarify my opposed position to applicable sections of proposed Bill No. 6354, which would involve the re-assignment of approximately 22 DCS positions to BOR and SDE, I present the following issues:

1. Prior to July 1, 2013, how will BOR and SDE obtain the technical and legal support services that are required to run a \$500 million to \$1 billion school construction program? DCS currently has the staff in place to perform these functions on a daily basis.
2. Prior to July 1, 2013, how will BOR and SDE develop written procedures for the Design Architect and Engineer (A/E) Selection process; processing of A/E contracts; the construction bidding process; construction contract awards; project accounting and project closeout procedures? DCS has procedures for these functions in place now.
3. If the above noted construction support procedures are to be managed by DCS, who will set the priorities regarding the progression of DCS Projects versus BOR and SDE Projects?

4. Who will BOR and SDE use to manage all of the environmental issues, permitting requirements, hazardous materials abatement, and energy conservation programs involved in large construction programs? DCS has a well-established Environmental Planning and Energy Unit that has procedures and staff in place that have been successful in dealing with project-related environmental issues, permitting requirements, hazardous materials abatement issues, and energy conservation requirements.
5. If BOR and SDE are required to duplicate the services discussed above, the duplication of support staff and top Agency Management will add more costs to the State. These services are required to run a successful construction program in order to avoid construction delays and cost over-runs with contractors.
6. There will be significant confusion within the construction industry in having to deal with several State Agencies that have different rules, regulations and procedures regarding the administration of construction contracts.

In conclusion, the recommended approach would be for DCS project management staff to remain at DCS. This would enable the continuance without interruption of multi-million dollar construction and renovation projects with the BOR and SDE. In addition, if DCS were to be provided with additional legal staff and Project Managers, we could more effectively and rapidly provide all of the required construction building services required to launch the BOR and SDE Building Programs into the next decade.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this bill. Please feel free to contact me if the Committee has any questions.