



**FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
MARCH 11, 2013
TESTIMONY OF COMMISSIONER KEVIN B. SULLIVAN
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES**

Excerpt Re: HB 6567

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the Department's legislative proposals. Thank you also for your hard work in what are much improved but still fiscally challenging times for Connecticut and so many other states.

As you know, the Department of Revenue Services is focused on doing more with less. That includes a workforce that is one-third smaller than just a few years ago, working smarter through lean initiatives and maximizing collections without new taxes. The legislative changes we seek all support these efforts.

HB 6567 - AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO TAX RETURN INFORMATION IN PERSONNEL PROCEEDINGS.

The Committee reported out this proposal last session but it simply got lost in the shuffle. It simply assures fairness to the Department and employees who may be subject to personnel proceeding by allowing into evidence tax return information that could not otherwise be used due to the broad prohibition of disclosure under CGS 12-15. Currently, for example, in the event of a violation of the Department's zero tolerance policy for tax record browsing, neither the agency nor the employee could actually provide evidence the actual tax record browsed. This proposal was developed in consultation with OPM's Office of Labor Relations and SEBAC representatives. We hope you might act quickly on HB 6567 since it may need a stop at GAE.

Thank you for your consideration.