



**Dannel P. Malloy**

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Testimony of Christopher R. Drake

In support of House Bill 6363

An Act Streamlining State Government and Increasing Effectiveness

and House Bill 6362

An Act Concerning the Transparency and Accessibility of the Regulations of Connecticut State  
Agencies

February 25, 2013

Good morning Sen. Musto, Rep. Jutila, Sen. McLachlan, Rep. Hwang and other distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Christopher Drake, Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Malloy. I am here to testify in support of two Governor's Bills, HB 6362 and 6363.

**House Bill 6363 - An Act Streamlining State Government and Increasing Effectiveness**

HB 6363 proposes the elimination or reconfiguration of various boards and commissions, a list of which is attached to my written testimony. This bill is part of the Governor's continued effort to streamline government. A similar bill, HB 5027, was submitted by the Governor last session, was passed unanimously in the House, but fell victim to timing issues with the end of the session rush. Many of these boards and commissions are no longer active and have not met in several years. Others are duplicative of the functions performed by more active boards.

We intend to continue to evaluate boards and commissions and may propose additional eliminations and consolidations in future legislative sessions. There may be boards, commissions, taskforces and other groups that should be added to this list and we invite the committee members and members and other members of the General Assembly to suggest any additions. Our office stands ready to work with members of this committee, with other members of the General Assembly, and with the public in rightsizing and streamlining state government.

**House Bill 6362 – An Act Concerning the Transparency and Accessibility of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies**

HB 6362 is related to Public Act 12-92, An Act Transitioning the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies to an Online Format. PA 12-92 established the Regulations Modernization Taskforce, which I chaired, to “develop a plan to ensure that by July 1, 2013, the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are available to the public in an easily accessible online format.” Information about the task force is available on the Governor’s website, including a list of the members and the final report *that was adopted by consensus*. I would like to publicly thank all of the task force members for their hard work, including their work in drafting this bill.

The motivation for this bill is simple, Connecticut residents and business are expected to comply with state regulations, but there is no central repository for the public to find the regulations that apply to them. Connecticut is the only state in the country that does not have a central online system for accessing its state regulations. The changes made by this bill and the plan created by the task force will go a long way towards addressing this problem. Creating an online repository for our state regulations will dramatically increase transparency and public awareness of our state’s regulatory process.

This bill provides the legal framework for modernization. The plan created by the task force recommends that the state’s entire regulation-making process be made electronic, making it accessible and transparent to the public. This is a two-step process. First, there are nearly 19,000 pages of state regulations currently in effect. This bill and the task force’s plan require that these regulations be put online no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, which meets the mandate set by PA 12-92. Second, in order to ensure that the regulations are kept current, this bill mandates that the entire regulation-making process be made electronic, with all agencies using the same system to create and promulgate regulations by October 1, 2014.

The regulation-making process in Connecticut is established by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. We are proposing only slight changes to the procedures to account for the fact that all documents created in the regulation-making process will be made available to the public online and in real time and that the online regulations will be the official version of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Funding for this project has already been approved by the Bond Commission through the Technology Capital Investment Program established by Section 2a of Public Act 12-189. These regulations will be available through the Secretary of the State’s website, although the design and implementation will be a joint effort between the Governor’s Office, the Secretary of the State, and the Bureau of Enterprise Services and Technology. We hope to begin implementation of this project within the next few weeks.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am happy to attempt to answer any questions that you have about either bill.

## Boards and Commissions for Elimination / Reconfiguration

- Advisory Committee for the Center of Real Estate and Urban Studies
- Advisory Committee for William Benton Museum of Art
- Child Daycare Council
- Computer-Assisted Mass Appraisal Systems Advisory Board
- CT Public Transportation Commission
- Geospatial Systems Information Council
- Greater Hartford Flood Control Commission
- Nurturing Families network Advisory Commission
- Statewide Community Antenna Television Advisory Council
- Adult Literacy Leadership Board
- Bi-State Farmington River Watershed Advisory Committee
- Board of Directors of the Lower Fairfield County Conference/Exhibit Authority
- Commission on Innovation and Productivity
- CT International Trade council
- CT Progress Council
- CT Risk Assessment Board
- HealthFirst Connecticut Authority
- Housing Advisory Committee
- Quinebaug & Shutucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor Advisory Committee
- Small Business Air Pollution Compliance Advisory Panel
- Southwest Corridor Action
- Student Financial Aid Information Council
- Long Island Sound Councils
- Gaming Policy Board
- Committee on Career Entry and Upward Mobility
- Committee to Encourage Employment by the State of Persons with Disabilities
- Metro North New Haven Rail Commuter Council
- Board of Trustees for the Department of Veteran's Affairs