



Department of Economic and
Community Development

Connecticut
still revolutionary

Catherine H. Smith
Commissioner

Draft – Testimony to Submit to GAE Committee 1/28/13

RE: Support of RB 434: AA Enabling Rapid Deployment of E-Government Services

Chairman Musto, Chairman Jutila and members of the Government, Administration & Elections Committee. My name is Catherine Smith and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD). I am presenting this testimony to you in strong support of Raised Bill 434: AA Enabling Rapid Deployment of E-Government Services.

When the enabling legislation for E-Government services was first introduced in the June Special Session, DECD immediately saw the potential that this initiative could have to our clients. By enabling our clients to transact business with the state online, and to provide that same audience with a web-based format to easily navigate current programs and services, is a convenience that is long overdue. This initiative would undoubtedly eliminate any unnecessary burdens and streamline government, which has been a focus of the Malloy Administration since taking office.

The language that you have before you is purely technical in nature. Through an oversight in the initial drafting, the self-funded model is impossible to attain as the revenue generated is to be deposited in the General Fund. The self-funded model which is used in over half the states currently, allows the chosen entity to charge an administrative fee to recover their up-front financial investment.

What initially drew the support of all the agencies that are testifying today, is that this initiative does not require bond funds or direct appropriations for the initial startup or to sustain itself into the future. Thus, the inconsistency in fee deposits, renders the program ineffective in its intended purpose.

In conclusion, we as a state have made great progress in removing regulatory burdens, streamlining processes and doing all this within tight fiscal constraints. We have striven to create an environment that is conducive to the needs of businesses and the public as a whole. We as a state need to constantly move in the direction of reinventing how we conduct business, how we interface with clients and how we attain successful results. This innovative proposal is in line with our mission at DECD and we enthusiastically urge your support.

Thank you.