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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Kevin Lembo
State Comptroller

Concerning S.B. 899 An Act Concerning Revisions to Statutes Concerning the Comptroller

March 11, 2013

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for raising *S.B. 899, AAC Revisions to Statutes Concerning the Comptroller*, and providing me an opportunity to discuss the need for this technical bill.

Section one of the legislation streamlines and updates the report requirements my office provides to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Core-CT system. The bill also identifies a date for submission of the report and changes it from an annual to a biennial one.

Section two of the bill increases the dollar threshold of inventoried state owned property that state agencies must report to my office from $1,000 to $5,000. This statute has not been updated for inflation in 15 years, so the change will create increased government efficiency and relieve administrative burden on some state agencies. Lower limits have been found to provide little informational benefit, but at a high tracking price. Further, this change is consistent with federal guidelines and is the most common state standard.

Section three makes a technical correction to reflect that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) now has the authority to make payments for the Office of the Claims Commissioner. However, as the Governor's current proposed biennial budget returns this authority to my office, this section may have to be removed from this bill.

Section four makes a change similar to section three. The State Insurance and Risk Management Board, once administratively under the Office of the State Comptroller

(OSC), is now under DAS. Section four reflects this change and will make the process of depositing the Board's checks more efficient.

Section five allows a designee to attend the Retirement Commission meetings on my behalf in the event that I am unable to attend. This section also clarifies my membership on the Retirement Commission.

Section six changes the responsibility of purchasing fire and casualty insurance for the Connecticut building at the Eastern States Exposition (the Big E) at West Springfield from my office to the State Insurance and Risk Management Board. Again, the Board is no longer administratively under my office, so the legislation reflects the earlier change in statute.

Section seven will change the due date of the report on the flexible spending account programs so that the most accurate data can be used to compile the report for the General Assembly.

Section eight corrects a statute number that points to a list of state agencies exempt from paying interest on late payments.

Section nine eliminates the Core-CT policy board, which was established for the initial implementation of the Core-CT system. With the Core-CT system well established, DAS and OSC now share executive sponsorship, guiding needed policy changes and overseeing communications to Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches.

I hope you will support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.