TESTIMONY OF LINDA J. YELMINI

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

DIRECTOR OF LABOR RELATIONS

Raised Bill No. 6417 – *AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT EMPLOYEES*

This bill would allow probate court employees to be included in the present collective bargaining contracts of state employees or, alternatively, be allowed to bargaining with the state regarding their wages, hours and conditions of employment. Under present law, these individuals serve at the pleasure of each respective probate judge and are entitled to all of the benefits provided under the statute. Under present statutes their pay and benefits are paid from the probate fees of each particular probate court. This change would, potentially, cost the state additional money to the extent that the pay and benefits were more than that generated by the fees collected. If these individuals were included in existing contracts or the bargaining would be done by the probate court system, judicial or the executive branch, there would be a cost associated therewith.

Additionally, the language that provides that the employees would serve at the pleasure of each respective probate judge is not consistent with the rights that would be provided if they were included in Chapter 68 as state employees for the purposes of collective bargaining.

Based upon the foregoing, this Bill should not be passed.