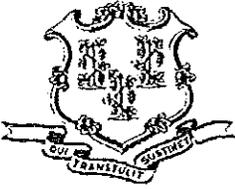


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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

March 18, 2013

Testimony of W. David LeVasseur

Acting Undersecretary of the Intergovernmental Policy Division

of the Office of Policy and Management

To the Planning and Development Committee

Regarding

Raised Senate Bill 1050, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE RENTAL REBATE GRANT

Good morning Senator Cassano, Representative Rojas and members of the Planning and Development Committee. My name is W. David LeVasseur and I am the Acting Undersecretary for Intergovernmental Policy at the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony in favor of Raised Senate Bill 1050, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE RENTAL REBATE GRANT.

This bill would extend, from 90 to 120 days, the period of time during which the Office of Policy and Management may process applications for the rental rebate grant.

Public Act 12-69 increased the window of time during which eligible individuals could apply for the Rental Rebate Grant Program. The window had previously been from May 15th to September 15th. P.A. 12-69 increased that window from April 1st to October 1st (eight weeks).

This increased application window created two problems in the administration of this grant:

- (1) the extended window for filing means that claims can be submitted up to October 1st. October 1st has traditionally been the date we submit our first payment list, it is difficult to finalize that list if applications are still coming in;
- (2) funds for payment are not traditionally available in CORE until October 1st. Additional processing time, as proposed in the bill, would assure that we can better make our deadline of producing an extensive and accurate payment list --and making those payments.

The additional thirty days proposed in Raised Senate Bill 1050 would rectify both of these problems and help us better serve those individuals eligible under this program, who now have an additional eight weeks to submit applications.

Thank-you for the opportunity to present testimony today and my staff and I look forward to working with the committee on this legislation throughout the remainder of the legislative session.