



Senate Bill 625

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

An Act Concerning the Review of Claims Filed by Motorists Against the Department of Transportation and its Contractors

Transportation Committee
February 4, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 625, **An Act Concerning the Review of Claims Filed by Motorists Against the Department of Transportation and its Contractors**.

This bill, while only in concept form, would "establish procedures for the impartial review and evaluation of claims filed by motorists against the Department of Transportation, or any contractor of the department, for damages sustained by such motorists from debris."

The State Insurance and Risk Management Board ("SIRMB"), an independent Board staffed by the Department of Administrative Services, is responsible for insuring the state and its agencies against losses and claims - whether through self-insurance or commercial providers. SIRMB has contracted with a third-party claims administrator to review and adjust all highway liability claims brought against DOT or the State of Connecticut. This company is an independent, professional, licensed Third-Party Claims Administrator, it is not staffed by State employees. The company currently provides an impartial review of all claims: Once the TPA receives notice of a claim, they contact the other party or parties to obtain the facts, collect any relevant written reports (police reports, inspection reports, etc.), consider relevant statutory provisions (i.e. C.G.S. § 13a-144), and make a determination regarding how to proceed with the claim.

As a result of the current process, SIRMB believes that the purpose of SB 625 is already being met. DAS and SIRMB would be happy to meet with the Committee to discuss the process and the Committee's concerns at any time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.