



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HB 5312

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

**An Act Requiring an Online Explanation by the Department of Administrative Services
of any Contract Extended Without Using Competitive Bidding**

**Government Administration & Elections Committee
March 3, 2014**

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) offers the following testimony regarding House Bill 5312.

Under current law, almost all contracts awarded by DAS must be done so through a competitive process. One of the exceptions to this rule is set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4a-59a, which authorizes DAS, in limited situations, to extend existing contracts without utilizing the formal competitive process. HB 5312 amends this statute by adding two requirements: (1) that DAS post an explanation for its determination to extend a contract pursuant to this section on its website and (2) that DAS submit an annual report to the legislature that includes all such explanations posted during the preceding year.

DAS does not oppose HB 5312's requirement that DAS post the reasons for the extension of contracts. Posting such determinations on the DAS State Contracting Portal will provide greater transparency and clarity about the process to vendors, agencies and members of the general public.

DAS respectfully suggests that the annual report proposed in HB 5312 would be duplicative of information that would be readily available on the Portal. If a large number of contracts were extended every year, an annual report might be a helpful way to aggregate information; however, no such aggregation is necessary when only a few contracts (if any) are extended pursuant to § 4a-59a. In the past few years, DAS has instituted a rigorous review and approval process to reduce the number of contracts that are extended pursuant to § 4a-59a. Indeed, DAS has exercised this authority on only 3 occasions in the past two years.

We thank the Committee for permitting DAS to comment on House Bill 5312. If there are any questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact Terrence Tulloch-Reid (Terrence.Reid@ct.gov) or Andrea Keilty (Andrea.Keilty@ct.gov).

