



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SB 271

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

**An Act Concerning the State's Authority to Purchase
and to Receive Donations of Real Property**

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

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) thanks the Government Administration & Elections Committee for raising **Senate Bill 271** and offers the following testimony in support of the bill.

Section 1 of SB 271 clarifies that the State may accept gifts of real property and interests in real property, through the Department of Administrative Services, as long as the procedural requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4b-22 (approval of the Attorney General, the Governor and the Office of Policy and Management) are met. SB 271 does not impact any existing authority provided to specific agencies or offices to accept gifts of land, property or other interests. Rather, this bill simply eliminates any question about the ability of the State to accept donations of land and other property interests in the absence of such specific statutory language.

Recently, DAS and other state agencies have been approached by private owners seeking to donate land and other interests in real property to the State. The Office of the Attorney General has opined that existing statutory authority of the State to accept such donations is not clear, and has advised that DAS seek a clarification to the statutes.

Similarly, **Section 2** is also designed to remove any ambiguity or doubt about DAS's authority to purchase or acquire real property and interests in real property on behalf of state agencies that do not otherwise possess the specific statutory authority to do so themselves. This section reiterates that such purchases or acquisitions are subject to the State's existing processes - approval of the Attorney General, the Office of Policy and Management and the State Properties Review Board.

Finally, **Section 3** makes clear that the University of Connecticut's existing authority to purchase, acquire, dispose of or exchange real property is unchanged.

We again thank the Committee for raising Senate Bill 271 and request your support for this bill. 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).

