

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 14, 2014**

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Testimony Regarding Senate Bill No. 343

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN PROPERTY-RELATED
MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 343, An Act Concerning the Availability of Certain Property-Related Municipal Information.

At the present the Office of Policy and Management can provide the Office of Fiscal Analysis the requested sales ratio information in an electronic format as frequently as that information is received from the individual municipalities and we are more than willing to sit down to discuss how often the Office of Fiscal Analysis would like to have this information transmitted.

As you know, the Intergovernmental Policy Division within the Office of Policy and Management administers a number of municipal grant programs. Most of these programs are still administered based on information submitted by municipalities in a paper format. This paper submission by municipalities makes it currently impossible for us to electronically transmit information on the State Owned and College and Hospital PILOT programs to the Office of Fiscal Analysis in the form and manner in which that office seeks through this bill.

We have begun the process of automating various programs and our most successful automation effort has been with the Renter's Rebate program. However, there are a number of other grants we administer which require automation and these projects, together with other efforts within the agency, place a heavy demand upon our in-house information technology staff.

We believe that the automation of the State-Owned Property and Privately Owned College and Hospital payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) programs could be several years away. In the interim, we are willing to work with the Office of Fiscal Analysis to create a system to electronically transmit this information to OFA.

The Office of Policy and Management has always attempted to be responsive and timely in dealing with requests for information from the Office of Fiscal Analysis, and I believe we have a good working relationship with that office. Accordingly, we do not feel there is a need for legislation.

Thank-you for the opportunity to appear before the committee and to submit testimony on this bill.