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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Kevin Lembo
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February 13, 2015

Concerning
H.B. 6747 AAC Revisions to Statutes Concerning the Comptroller
S.B. 597 AAC Electronic Earned Benefit Statements for Retired State Employees
S.B. 877 AAC Revisions to Statutes Concerning DAS
H.B. 6746 AA Extending the Terms of Certain Members of the Freedom of Information Commission

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for raising *H.B. 6747, An Act Concerning Revisions to Statutes Concerning the Comptroller*, and providing me an opportunity to provide testimony on the need for this technical bill.

Section one of the legislation streamlines and updates the report requirements my office provides to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Core-CT system. The bill also identifies a date for submission of the report and changes it from an annual to a biennial one.

Section two makes a technical correction to reflect that the State Insurance and Risk Management Board, once administratively under the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), is now under the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

Section three allows a designee to attend the Retirement Commission meetings on my behalf in the event that I am unable to attend. This section also clarifies my membership on the Retirement Commission.

Section four changes the responsibility of purchasing fire and casualty insurance for the Connecticut building at the Eastern States Exposition (the Big E) at West Springfield from my office to the State Insurance and Risk Management Board. Again, the Board is no longer administratively under my office, so the legislation reflects the earlier change in statute.

Section five will change the due date of the report on the flexible spending account programs so that the most accurate data can be used to compile the report for the General Assembly.

Section six corrects a statute number that points to a list of state agencies exempt from paying interest on late payments.

Section seven eliminates the Core-CT policy board, which was established for the initial implementation of the Core-CT system. With the Core-CT system well established, DAS and OSC now share executive sponsorship, guiding needed policy changes and overseeing communications to Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches.

I hope you will support this legislation.

S.B. 597 AAC Electronic Earned Benefit Statements for Retired State Employees
A few years ago, as part of my office's ongoing efforts to identify ways to save taxpayer dollars and make state services more efficient, we initiated voluntary changes to the retiree direct deposit protocol. At that time, we suspended the monthly printing and mailing of direct deposit advices to retirees, unless a retiree opted out of this paperless program. Retirees were able to verify their earnings by referring to their regular bank statements. Also, any change in a retiree's payroll amount (COLA, new deductions, etc.) would trigger a paper notice to the retiree affected.

More recently, my office has been working to upgrade our technology with an automated state employee pension system, an important step to significantly increase our efficiency, reduce the pension backlog, and eliminate delays in pension calculations and finalizations. This new pension system will also include self-service, allowing retirees to review their direct deposit advice online. During the implementation period of the new pension system, we must temporarily revert to printing the direct deposit advices for all retirees. The implementation will be completed in August 2016, at which time we will launch the new paperless capability. Therefore, I believe there is no need for this legislation.

S.B. 877 AAC Revisions to Statutes Concerning the Department of Administrative Services
I support this legislation and appreciate the efforts of DAS to update the statutes to reflect the current purpose and review practice of the Technical Services Revolving Fund.

H.B. 6746 AA Extending the Terms of Certain Members of the Freedom of Information Commission
I am in support of this legislation, which will help to strengthen the Freedom of Information Commission by preserving continuity of its members and affording them the opportunity to be fully invested in their work to create a more open government.

Thank you for your consideration.