



QUESTIONS FOR BANKING COMMISSIONER NOMINEE

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COMMISSIONER OF BANKING (CGS §§ 36A-10 – 36A-14)

The banking commissioner is responsible for administering the Department of Banking, including conducting examinations and investigations. He must report annually to the governor on (1) the condition of banks and other organizations the department examines, (2) the administration of the Connecticut Truth-in-Lending Act, and (3) his analysis of home financing practices. He must also report annually to both the governor and Banking Committee on the administration of interstate banking and the issuance of final certificates of authority to expedited banks.

QUESTIONS

1. Virtual currency, such as Bitcoins, operates like a currency but is not real currency; therefore, many laws do not apply to it. As the banking regulator, what do you think are the policy implications of emerging technologies such as virtual currency?
2. Home foreclosures continue to be a concern for many people in the state. As of January 7, 2015, there were 3,159 foreclosure matters pending in the Hartford Judicial District alone, 80% of which were mortgage-related. Should the state do more to help those potentially facing foreclosure?
3. Questions often arise about federal preemption of various state banking laws. How can the state protect its consumers and businesses against the actions of parties regulated by the federal government, such as national banks?
4. The 2009 Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act (CARD act) had two main requirements – fairness and transparency. Among other things, the act stopped arbitrary interest rate increases and prohibited abusive practices. Some believe there is still progress to be made. How can regulators and policymakers further protect credit card holders?

5. The federal Dodd-Frank Act of 2010 instituted numerous changes to federal regulation of the financial industry. How has the act and its implementing regulations affected the state's regulatory authority?
6. In 2009, the General Assembly passed legislation aimed at better protecting consumers against identity theft ([PA 09-239](#)). Is there a need for further improvement in state identity theft laws? What can banks and other financial institutions do to protect the privacy of their customers' information?
7. In 2013, the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel Network database contained 123,757 fraud complaints from victims who identified themselves as age 60 or older. Many see this as evidence that financial fraud against seniors is a substantial problem. Is there a need to provide greater financial protection to at-risk-seniors in our laws? What can banks and other financial institutions do to protect seniors from financial exploitation.
8. In light of recent data breach of two large American retailers, which involved personal and banking information of millions of people, significant attention has been brought to an available credit card technology that uses computer chips to provide greater protection against fraud. Do you think financial institutions and retailers should be required to use this technology?
9. As of January 1, 2015, Maine has started to allow crowdfunding as a way to facilitate public investment in small businesses. Crowdfunding allows individuals to invest in small increments through an intermediary, such as the Internet. What more can Connecticut do to assist small businesses and start-up companies that need investment capital to help get their business ventures off the ground?
10. What do you see as your top priority as the new banking commissioner?

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