



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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House Bill 6376
An Act Concerning Vehicles from the State Motor Pool

Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Veterans' Affairs Committee
February 17, 2015

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide comments on **House Bill 6376, "An Act Concerning Vehicles from the State Motor Pool."** HB 6376 proposes that DAS should offer vehicles no longer in use to disadvantaged veterans prior to offering such vehicles for sale at auction. As the agency responsible for administering the State Property Distribution Program pursuant to C.G.S. § 4a-57a, as well as the state fleet, we would like to share some thoughts for the Committee's consideration.

DAS Fleet Operations administers a fleet of approximately 3,900 cars and light duty trucks on behalf of over 60 state agencies. Fleet Operations purchases vehicles, leases the vehicles to state agencies as needed to serve their business needs, and maintains the vehicles. If a state agency no longer needs a vehicle, Fleet will re-assign it to another agency as needed. Once a vehicle has reached the end of its useful life, Fleet Operations assigns the vehicle to surplus.

Under the DAS State Property Distribution Program, a surplus vehicle (like other surplus property) is offered first to state agencies for purchase. After seven days, if no agency claims the vehicle, the offer is opened up to municipalities, as well as agencies. If, after 14 days, the vehicle is not claimed, it is released for auction to the public. DAS estimates that the auction vehicle sales totaled \$1.7 million last year. We estimate similar revenue to the State from this year's sales.

If this bill is approved, DAS would need specific guidance from the Committee and Legislature on several critical questions, including:

- How would eligibility be determined of what constitutes a disadvantaged veteran and who would make those eligibility assessments?
- Is the intent of the legislation that the vehicles be given to veterans or to allow the disadvantaged veterans an opportunity to purchase the vehicles?
- At what time in process would the veterans option be applied?
- What happens if more than one veteran is interested in a particular vehicle?

DAS thanks the Committee for this opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.