



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

### ***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE*** ***March 4, 2016***

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*Secretary*  
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Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 5477

#### AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTER'S GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD

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Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Linares, Representative Aman and members of the Planning and Development Committee. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill No. 5477 An Act Concerning the Renter's Grant Application Period.

This bill seeks to extend the Grant payment period to correspond with the extended time to file grant applications granted to applicants by the passage of P.A. 12-69. P.A. 12-69 extended the renter's grant application period from four months (May 15 – September 15) to six months (April 1 – October 1.) To adjust for the extended application period, PA 13-234 adjusted the time frame in which the Office of Policy and Management is to provide the certified list of renters to the Comptroller from 90 to 120 days after the applications have been received.

Using the 120 day time frame, if a renter's application was submitted to OPM on April 1, the Comptroller would have to be notified by OPM on July 30 and the renters rebate payment would have to be made by August 30. However, the language of CGS Sec. 12-170f states that the secretary of OPM must provide a list of approved applications to the Comptroller no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>. Since the grant application period was extended two months until October 1<sup>st</sup>, OPM would be forced to certify to the Comptroller and make payments before the application period actually ended. The proposed language in HB 5477 adjusts the payment schedule to reflect the change in application deadline.

The Office of Policy and Management no longer accepts renters' paper applications and municipal claims. Effective April 1, 2013, the process in which assessors/agents provide the Office of Policy and Management with data is now in an electronic format with the receipt of the claims based on real time. The renters receive a certificate of grant and the assessor/agent keeps the original documentation. Since applications are submitted electronically, any statutory reference made to "copies" of the application have been removed.

The technical revisions and clarifying language in HB 5477 seek to remedy discrepancies between CGS Sec. 12-170f, PA 12-69 and PA 13-234.

I respectfully request that the committee support this bill. I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.