



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 8, 2016

Benjamin Barnes

Secretary

Office of Policy and Management

Testimony Regarding House Bill No. 5544

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in opposition to Raised House Bill No. 5544 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS."

Section 3 of this bill would allow for two or more municipalities that have established a regional emergency telecommunications center or multitown public safety answer point to apply for a regional performance incentive program grant in order to (a) fund the operating costs associated with transitioning from an existing public safety answering point to a regional emergency telecommunications center or (b) a multitown public safety answering point.

Municipalities already can apply for RPIP funding for this purpose. The "incentive" to regionalize in this case is duplicative and unnecessary. The language in this bill would also allow for the funding of the operating costs associated with the transition in addition to the initial investment needed to make the transition. The funding of operating costs would decrease the amount of funding available for other regionalization investment projects. This use of RPIP funding is not appropriate in this context. Savings that accrue to municipalities as a result of the regionalization should be incentive enough. The State cannot afford additional funding of local operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Acting Undersecretary David LeVasseur at david.levasseur@ct.gov.