



**Senate Bill 121
An Act Repealing Certain Statutes Related To Moving Pictures**

Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey

**Public Safety & Security Committee
March 1, 2016**

Good afternoon Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Zupkus, and distinguished members of the Public Safety & Security Committee. I want to thank the Committee for raising this concept on behalf of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Senate Bill 121, An Act Repealing Certain Statutes Related to Moving Pictures, repeals the several statutes in Chapter 531 dealing with motion picture theaters. These statutes include provisions relating to the requirements for fire safety for motion picture theaters. These statutes are unnecessary because the State Fire Safety Code, the State Building Code and the State Fire Prevention Codes all contain construction and operational requirements for motion picture theaters and their associated auditoriums, as well as every other public occupancy.

These statutes also apply to the licensing of people who use photographic film, including films made of nitrocellulose or other highly combustible materials, which are effectively obsolete. Nationally, the theater industry has moved away from the use of photographic film, i.e. the ribbon-type film displayed on screens through projectors using bulbs. In today's industry, most films are downloaded to the DVD players via satellite and may even be operated remotely. In particular, the display of the highly flammable nitrocellulose film no longer occurs. Therefore, these statutes are outdated and should be repealed.

It should be noted that Senate Bill 121 does not affect the statutory requirements for motion pictures that are still germane to the industry and are enforceable by local police departments, specifically:

- C.G.S. §29-128a – prohibition on X-rated films;
- C.G.S. §29-128b – display of film rating required; and
- C.G.S. §29-128f – unlawful use of a recording device – film piracy

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide these comments. I hope that you will support this bill.