



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY**  
EIGHTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4038  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
HOME: (203) 269-8378  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1902  
E-mail: [Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov)

**ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**MEMBER**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) in Support of RB 179, An Act Requiring a Performance Audit of Certain Government Programs; RB 180, An Act Requiring Executive and Legislative Review of Certain Quasi-Public Agency Contracts; and RB 5178, An Act Requiring Executive and Legislative Review of Certain Quasi-Public Agency Contracts and an Annual Review of Each Quasi-Public Agency

Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE)  
February 26, 2018 11:00 a.m.

The legislature's elimination of the long-standing Program Review and Investigations Committee removed periodic review and in-depth analysis of various state-funded programs and contracted services. There is now less expenditure review and the Auditors of Public Accounts must fill the void. Three of the bills before you today attempt to improve the level of oversight: RB 179, RB 180 and RB 5178.

RB 179 amends performance audits in the Auditors of Public Accounts powers by requiring they be done in the case of a government program with an annual cost in excess of one million dollars. The report would then go to the executive branch and the Appropriations Committee. GAE should amend the bill in line 61-64 so the report also goes to the committee of cognizance. For example, a tax credit report should go to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to help them determine whether certain tax credits are worthwhile.

RB 180 requires all quasi-public agencies submit contracts over \$100,000 to the Attorney General and the committee of cognizance, with a few exceptions. If this requirement will produce a significant burden on the Attorney General, create a lengthy delay to the agency and overwhelm the committee of cognizance, the GAE Committee may wish to amend the bill in line 10 by increasing the dollar threshold for the requirement.

RB 5178 is important because it fills the void left by the elimination of the Program Review and Investigations Committee. Quasi-public agencies will now submit copies of contracts to the

committee of cognizance as well as to the Attorney General. The committee of cognizance may then conduct a hearing on the report, as needed. The review covers large bonuses and separation agreements as well as contracts. We know these have been a controversial issue in the case of certain quasi-public agencies and higher education institutions. As in RB 180, the GAE Committee could amend RB 5178 in line 7 to raise the threshold of contracts reviewed if the bill will create a significant burden on the Attorney General or cause a lengthy delay to the agency.

All of these bills could also be combined into SB 175, the Auditors bill. Thank you for raising these accountability measures.