STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Legal Services Bureau, Room 164
60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161
http://ct.gov/dmv

November 18, 2010

Senator Joseph Crisco, Co-Chair
Beverley Henry, Co-Chair

Thank you for allowing the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) an opportunity to testify regarding the conversion of legislative documents from paper into electronic form. The DMV fully agrees with the mission of the Task Force charged with evaluating this issue, and wishes to assist in the furtherance of its goals.

The current budget has six reductions in printing costs for fiscal year 2011. The DMV agrees with all but one of the six reductions. We oppose the funding cut for transcribing testimony from public hearings. The DMV feels that the availability of testimony is crucial to understanding the issues that are brought forth from diverse sources with respect to proposed bills. For example, the DMV reviews the transcripts to evaluate the arguments made for and against a bill. Having the testimony transcribed is a timely and efficient method for state agencies and the public to keep abreast of proposed legislation, and when archived, that testimony is invaluable for conducting on-line legislative histories. The funding for transcripts should be restored and other avenues for savings should be considered.

The DMV has other suggestions for reducing costs. Last year, we received two copies of the daily bulletin and copies of all the new bills every day in our mailbox. All of that information is available on-line and we believe only one copy is necessary.

The DMV is an agency that typically submits lengthy legislative proposals as well as multiple comments on bills. This requires the DMV to print many copies of testimony for the committee members before whom it testifies. The DMV also provides extra copies for the record. Our view is that each committee should make an effort to require fewer copies from the agencies. It would be reasonable for each clerk to be responsible for determining the precise number of copies his or her committee members need, thereby reducing the waste that occurs when, for example, an agency submits forty copies for a hearing when only fifteen members are in attendance. A focused effort to scan more documents by the committee clerks would cut down on the number of photocopies made by both the legislature and state agencies.

When the DMV requested scanned copies of testimony that had been submitted by other parties, the clerks would assist with that request after the hearing. If each agency were able to gain access to an on-site scanner, it would be able to scan only the pages of testimony that were relevant for that agency. This would reduce the time a clerk would be required to spend scanning documents after a hearing and would streamline the process for all involved parties. This would also allow an agency to email the scanned version back to its staff instantaneously. The department believes this would create a more effective way of doing business for both the legislature and agencies.

Thank you for allowing us the time to share our views and recommendations. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Ward