House Bill 5255

AAC Recommendations by the Department of Transportation

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Joint Committee on Transportation

March 7, 2022

Good morning Senator Haskell, Representative Lemar, Senator Somers, Representative Carney and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit informational testimony regarding the Transportation Committee's effort to streamline the state's procurement process, as set forth in section 8 of House Bill 5255.

Section 8 of House Bill 5255 would further the state's goal of embracing modern business practices that will result in a more efficient and flexible operation of government. Specifically, this section eliminates a requirement that vendors sign a separate sworn affidavit representing whether a consulting agreement has been entered into in connection with the underlying contract for the purchase of goods or services over fifty thousand dollars with the state.

Instead, this proposal will allow the language that was previously included in that affidavit to be included as a representation in the body of the contract. The requirement that a sworn affidavit be signed creates a delay in contract execution, particularly as the state moves towards electronic processes. In addition, the requirement burdens Connecticut Small and Minority Businesses that enter into state contracts because these entities often do not have notary services readily available.

This proposal is also consistent with changes made in Public Act 21-76, which similarly reduced paperwork associated with contracting and procurement requirements and streamlined processes for entities doing business with the state among other things. Section 8 of House Bill 5255 accomplishes a similar result by streamlining the procurement process.

I urge the Committee to support this bill.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We look forward to working with the Committee to address this issue.