



Senate Bill 1432

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO PROVISIONS CONCERNING CONTRACTING, REAL ESTATE, STATE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND PROBATE COURT NOTIFICATIONS

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 7, 2025

Senator Flexer, Representative Blumenthal, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. We thank you for the opportunity to testify on **Senate Bill 1432: An Act Implementing the Department of Administrative Services' Recommendations for Revisions to Provisions Concerning Contracting, Real Estate, State Construction Services and Probate Court Notifications**. This proposal makes various changes to the statutes to streamline agency processes and reporting requirements.

Section 1 changes the threshold for projects and task letters administered and issued by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) that are subject to approval by the State Properties Review Board from \$100,000 to \$300,000. This threshold for DAS has not increased since 1997 and making this change will not only align with the thresholds for the constituent units of higher education and the Judicial Branch, but it will also remove an administrative step, which will allow DAS to move smaller contracts along faster while maintaining appropriate levels of oversight and accountability.

Sections 2-3 modernize real estate advertising. Current law requires DAS to advertise real estate space needs of more than 2,500 square feet in a newspaper. This proposal modernizes the statute by requiring these notices to be posted on the DAS website instead, saving the state between \$30,000 and \$40,000 annually.

Section 4 aligns the thresholds for state construction services selection panels with the increase in C.G.S. § 4-55's definition of "project," which was amended during the 2024 legislative session. This alignment is needed to ensure our process of using a three-member panel for on-call contract selections continues to be appropriate at the increased project levels.

Section 11 eliminates quarterly reporting on two projects required by Public Act 23-206. The first project is a parking garage at the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center, which is complete and operational, therefore no further updates are anticipated. The second project is the facility for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). OCME is working directly with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to explore different options for this project. DAS is a third party to these discussions and, therefore, is not well-positioned to provide updates to the legislature on this topic.

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Section 12 eliminates outdated, pandemic-related reporting requirements. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the DAS Commissioner is required to compile, update, post on the DAS website, and annually report to the General Assembly a list of companies domiciled in this state that changed their business model to produce personal protective equipment, and to direct state agencies to make reasonable efforts to purchase personal protective equipment from the list. As the state is no longer under the COVID-19 emergency, this list of businesses and the associated statutory requirements are no longer necessary. The elimination of this reporting requirement will allow the DAS procurement team to instead dedicate its personnel resources on statewide contracting and internal process improvement.

Sections 5-10 remove the requirement that the DAS Commissioner receive Probate Court conservatorship notices. The DAS Commissioner has no standing in conservatorship cases, so there is no reason for DAS to receive these notices. This is distinguishable from decedent estates, where the state may have an interest due to asset recovery. We have also spoken with Connecticut Probate Court, and they are comfortable with this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we urge the passage of **Senate Bill 1432**.