



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING
260 CONSTITUTION PLAZA – HARTFORD, CT 06103-1800



**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
REGULATION AND PROTECTION**

Jorge L. Perez, Banking Commissioner

February 18, 2021

Honorable Members of the Appropriations' subcommittee for Regulation and Protection, my name is Jorge Perez and I am the Banking Commissioner for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today concerning the Department's budget request for the Biennium 22/23.

As many of you may already know, the Department of Banking is fully funded by the industries we regulate via the Banking Fund which receives revenues from assessments and fees from those entities. These include state-chartered banks and credit unions; non-depository entities like mortgage companies, money transmitters and debt collectors; and finally from broker-dealer agents and investment advisers. The fees generated in a typical year exceed the needs of the agency budget, with a significant portion of the remaining revenue used to fund the Foreclosure Mediation Program in the Judicial Department as well as providing funding for other initiatives.

The Governor's Budget recommends \$25,191,639 in FY 2022 and \$26,085,732 in FY 2023. These reflect a slight increase from FY21 largely driven by salary increases due to union contractual obligations. Salaries and fringe benefits comprise more than 90% of the Department's budget with the next significant expenditure being our lease payment for our offices at Constitution Plaza in Hartford.

The funding request before you will enable us to carry out our statutory obligations of providing regulatory oversight to financial service companies in the state as well as providing strong consumer protections.

My business office manager and I are available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time.