



**Testimony of Commissioner Josh Geballe
Commissioner of Administrative Services**

**Appropriations Committee
February 22, 2021**

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is Josh Geballe and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services ("DAS"). I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of DAS and some of the major elements of the proposed adjustments and then I welcome any questions you may have.

DAS is organized into six functional areas that report to the Commissioner: Human Resources, Real Estate and Construction, Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology, Procurement Services, Business Office, and Legal & Legislative. Within these functional areas, DAS houses a number of distinct programs that comprise the business functions of state government, including information technology, human resources, procurement, facilities and real estate, construction services, fleet, workers compensation and more. Our divisions are united in a common mission:

- **Support Connecticut's Growth** - To serve our citizens, businesses, state agencies and other branches of government by providing the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost.
- **Drive Continuous Innovation** - To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state government using best practices from the public and private sectors.
- **Provide Rewarding Careers** - To attract and retain a workforce of talented, dedicated public servants committed to leading our great state forward.

When the biennial budget was enacted in 2019, DAS's authorized "all funds" appropriation for 2021 was \$137,340,621. The Governor's proposed budget adjustment increases the 2021 amount by approximately \$21 million to \$158,074,362 for 2022 and then decreases the 2023 amount by approximately \$3 million to \$155,019,135.

The biennial budget authorized DAS to have 579 General Fund positions in 2021. The Governor's proposed budget adjustment increases DAS's position count by 176 positions to 755 General Fund positions in 2022 and then decreases DAS's position count by 33 to 722 in 2023. These changes are driven primarily by the centralization of executive branch human resources functions into DAS.

The adjusted appropriations and position count reflect some of the major initiatives DAS has been engaged in, including the centralization of human resources functions within DAS. Governor Lamont's Executive Order 2 directed DAS to utilize its existing statutory authority to develop and implement a plan to centralize and modernize the Executive Branch's human resources functions within DAS in order to provide state government with the highest quality human resources services at the lowest possible cost, and further the uniform administration of processes, systems, and functions among state agencies. Part of that plan involves transferring 234 human resources positions from their current agencies into DAS. In addition, the Governor's proposed budget includes funds to enable DAS to implement technology solutions to promote efficiencies in the provision of human resources to state employees.

In addition, as we work across agencies to better leverage our purchasing power and to modernize our technology systems, the Governor's adjustment centralizes the funding for the purchase and management of Microsoft 365 licenses for all of the executive branch. At the end of 2019, DAS negotiated an enterprise agreement for the Microsoft 365 suite for all executive branch agencies which resulted in not only better pricing but also enables state agencies to upgrade operating systems, move email to the cloud and utilize collaboration tools to improve how state agencies work with each other, business partners and citizens.

Also included in the budget are savings that DAS will achieve as a result of our ongoing efforts to reduce our facilities spending by making more efficient use of our office space. The budget includes spending reductions related to moving agencies out of 55 Elm Street and the termination of that lease.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.