



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 212

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5242

House of Representatives, March 24, 2004

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. GRAZIANI of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF THE CONNECTICUT RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) There is established the
2 Connecticut Rural Development Council in accordance with the
3 Federal Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, as amended
4 from time to time.

5 (b) The Connecticut Rural Development Council shall be composed
6 of the requisite board and membership required under the Federal
7 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, as amended from
8 time to time.

9 (c) The Connecticut Rural Development Council shall monitor,
10 report and comment on policies and programs that address or fail to
11 address the following goals with respect to rural areas: (1)
12 Coordination of state, federal, tribal and private sector relationships to

13 increase efficiency, eliminate duplication, identify gaps and promote
14 the interests of rural areas, and (2) promotion of the fiscal autonomy of
15 rural municipalities.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill creates in state statute the Connecticut Rural Development Council. The Council currently exists and is a voluntary partnership organization formed by the State of Connecticut and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Council receives funding from the federal government and by local-in kind services provided through Northwestern Connecticut Community Technical College.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5242

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF THE CONNECTICUT RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes the Connecticut Rural Development Council in statute and requires it to comply with the Federal Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (PL 107-171), which amended an earlier law requiring the agriculture secretary to help state groups design and implement policies and programs that address rural area needs. The state council was originally created under Executive Order No. 31 (1980) in response to that law. The bill provides no funding for the council.

The bill requires the council to have the type of board and membership required under the federal act. That act requires the council to include representatives of federal, state, local, and tribal governments; private sector organizations; and other organizations committed to rural development. Under the council's bylaws, representatives from these groups serve on the council's 16-member board of directors, which largely coordinates the council's affairs. Any interested person or organization can join the council, but must attend its meetings regularly in order to vote.

The bill and the federal act require the council to monitor policies and programs and report on the extent to which rural areas benefit. The council must determine if programs run by state, federal, tribal, and private groups are working to increase efficiency, eliminate duplication, identify gaps, and promote rural interests. It must also determine if the programs are helping rural towns become fiscally autonomous.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 26 Nay 0