



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2005

LCO No. 5617

**\*HB0657005617HRO\***

Offered by:  
REP. BOUCHER, 143<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6570      File No. 506      Cal. No. 122

**"AN ACT CONCERNING PLANS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT."**

1      After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2      internal references accordingly:

3      "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) The towns of  
4      Norwalk, Wilton and Ridgefield may, by ordinance consistent with the  
5      provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, establish a Route 7  
6      Greenway Authority Commission which shall be deemed established  
7      at such time as the last of the three towns has adopted such ordinance.

8      (b) Such ordinance shall specify the membership of the commission,  
9      which shall consist of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection,  
10     or said commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Transportation,  
11     or said commissioner's designee, a member and alternate member  
12     from the city of Norwalk, appointed by the mayor, and from the towns  
13     of Wilton and Ridgefield, appointed by the first selectman of each of  
14     said towns, and a member and alternate member of the South Western  
15     Regional Planning Agency appointed by said agency. Each member

16 and alternate member shall serve for a term of two years and until  
17 such member's successor is appointed and has qualified. Such  
18 appointments may be made at a meeting of the town's legislative body,  
19 to take effect when the last of the four towns has adopted such  
20 ordinance. An alternate member may vote on said commission in the  
21 absence of the member for whom such person is an alternate. The  
22 initial terms of members shall commence when the last of the four  
23 towns adopting such ordinance has appointed a member and an  
24 alternate member. Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled in  
25 the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the  
26 unexpired term. No appointed member shall receive any  
27 compensation for service on said commission. Said commission shall  
28 elect from its members a chairperson and such other officers as it  
29 deems necessary and shall establish its own rules of procedure. The  
30 commission shall be an autonomous body within the Department of  
31 Transportation for administrative purposes only. The commission may  
32 employ experts and such other assistants as it judges necessary and  
33 may accept funds from any source. Notwithstanding any other  
34 provision of the general statutes, any funds appropriated to the  
35 commission, or received by the commission from any other source,  
36 shall be held in the custody of the commission and expended by the  
37 commission for the purposes set forth in this section.

38 (c) Such ordinance shall also require the Commissioner of  
39 Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Transportation,  
40 not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section to call a  
41 meeting of said commission which shall, not later than ninety days  
42 thereafter:

43 (1) Hold public hearings for the purpose of developing standards  
44 for (A) defining the initial boundaries of the Route 7 Greenway, (B)  
45 planning the design, construction, maintenance and management of  
46 the Route 7 Greenway trail system and intermodal transportation  
47 access system, (C) identifying and prioritizing lands that should be  
48 added to the Route 7 Greenway, (D) recommending land use within  
49 the Route 7 Greenway, and (E) acquiring land and securing

50 conservation easements for the Route 7 Greenway, except that nothing  
51 in this section shall be construed to prohibit the acquisition of land  
52 within the Route 7 Greenway by a municipality; and

53 (2) Establish bylaws by which the commission shall (A) conduct its  
54 meetings, including a provision specifying that no action by the  
55 commission shall be effective except by the concurring vote of at least  
56 four members, (B) protect and preserve the lands under its custody,  
57 (C) supervise staff, (D) maintain its records, and (E) report to the  
58 General Assembly, as required under subsection (d) of this section.

59 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or the  
60 general statutes, the commission may: (1) Acquire or convey by  
61 purchase, gift, lease, devise, exchange or otherwise, any land or  
62 interest therein including, but not limited to, conservation easements,  
63 located wholly or partly in the conservation zone, provided such  
64 acquisition does not utilize funds furnished by the state; (2) transfer,  
65 with the approval of the Commissioner of Transportation, any land or  
66 interest therein to the state with or without consideration, provided  
67 any funds received therefor shall not be deemed funds furnished by  
68 the state for the purposes of this section; and (3) contribute or transfer  
69 funds to, and enter into agreements with, land trusts or other  
70 conservation organizations, to carry out the purposes of this section.

71 (e) On or before February 15, 2006, and annually thereafter, the  
72 commission shall report to the General Assembly, on its activities of  
73 the preceding year and on its finances. The existence of the  
74 commission shall terminate at such time as all of its member towns  
75 have withdrawn or it is abolished by the General Assembly.

76 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) The Department of  
77 Environmental Protection is authorized to establish, in conjunction  
78 with the Department of Transportation, a linear park along Route 7,  
79 utilizing both the highway right-of-way and other adjoining lands  
80 acquired for this purpose. Said linear park, if established, shall also  
81 link other state and municipal recreational and open space areas.

82 (b) The Department of Environmental Protection may: (1) Accept,  
83 receive and administer, on behalf of the state, any grants, loans or  
84 other funds made available from any source for the purposes of  
85 establishing said linear park; (2) acquire lands, waters or interests in  
86 lands or waters, by purchase or condemnation, and enter into  
87 agreements with federal, other state or local agencies, corporations or  
88 individuals concerning such lands or waters which may be necessary  
89 to establish said park; (3) administer the design, including site  
90 planning, construction and development; (4) administer, maintain and  
91 regulate the use of said park; and (5) enter into cooperative agreements  
92 with agencies of the government or local agencies to provide for  
93 maintenance and regulation of said park."