



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 298

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 7303

House of Representatives, April 3, 2007

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. BERGER of the 73rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A
NEW ARENA IN THE CITY OF HARTFORD.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-600 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 As used in this chapter and sections 32-650 to 32-668, inclusive, the
4 following terms shall have the following meanings:

5 (1) "Authority" means the Capital City Economic Development
6 Authority created pursuant to section 32-601.

7 (2) "Capital city project" means any or all of the following: (A) A
8 convention center project as defined in subdivision (3) of this section;
9 (B) a downtown higher education center; (C) the renovation and
10 rejuvenation of the civic center and coliseum complex, including
11 determining the feasibility of replacing the coliseum and constructing
12 a new downtown arena; (D) the development of the infrastructure and

13 improvements to the riverfront; (E) (i) the creation of up to one
14 thousand downtown housing units through rehabilitation and new
15 construction and (ii) the demolition or redevelopment of vacant
16 buildings; and (F) the addition to downtown parking capacity. All
17 capital city projects shall be located or constructed and operated in the
18 capital city economic development district, as defined in subdivision
19 (7) of this section, provided any project undertaken pursuant to
20 subparagraph (E) (ii) of this subdivision may be located anywhere in
21 the town and city of Hartford.

22 (3) "Convention center" means a convention facility constructed and
23 operated in the capital city economic development district, including
24 parking for such facility, in conjunction with a privately developed
25 hotel, including ancillary facilities and infrastructure improvements as
26 more particularly described in the master development plan.

27 (4) "Convention center facilities" means the convention center and
28 the related parking facilities, as defined in section 32-651, to the extent
29 such related parking facilities are developed, owned or operated by the
30 authority, and may include a central heating and cooling plant serving
31 the convention center, the related parking facilities, the related private
32 development and, to the extent of any surplus capacity, other users.
33 "Convention center facilities" does not include the convention center
34 hotel.

35 (5) "Convention center hotel" means the privately developed hotel
36 required to be constructed and operated in conjunction with the
37 convention center, as more particularly described in the master
38 development plan, as defined in section 32-651, including the second
39 phase of the convention center hotel as therein described.

40 (6) "Convention center project" means the development, design,
41 construction, finishing, furnishing and equipping of the convention
42 center facilities and related site acquisition and site preparation.

43 (7) "Capital city economic development district" means the area
44 bounded and described as follows: The northerly side of Maseek

45 Street from the intersection of Van Dyke Avenue proceeding westerly
 46 to the intersection of Van Block Avenue, proceeding northerly along
 47 Van Block to the intersection of Nepaquash Street, proceeding easterly
 48 to the intersection of Huyshope Avenue, proceeding northerly along
 49 Huyshope Avenue to the intersection of Charter Oak Avenue,
 50 proceeding westerly along Charter Oak Avenue to Wyllys Street,
 51 proceeding along Wyllys Street to Popieluszko Court, north on
 52 Popieluszko Court to Charter Oak Avenue proceeding westerly to
 53 Main Street, proceeding south along Main Street to Park Street, thence
 54 west along Park Street to Washington Street, thence north along
 55 Washington Street to the entryway to the State Capitol, thence
 56 northwesterly along the Exit 48 on ramp to Interstate 84 northward to
 57 the railroad, now proceeding northeasterly along the railroad to its
 58 intersection with the southerly railroad spur, thence proceeding
 59 southeasterly along the railroad R.O.W. to the Bulkeley Bridge. Thence
 60 easterly to the city line. Proceeding south along city boundary to the
 61 point perpendicular with Masseek Street. Thence westerly to the point
 62 of beginning.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	32-600

CE *Joint Favorable*

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	150,000 - 250,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Capital City Economic Development Authority (CCEDA) to study the feasibility of replacing the coliseum and constructing a downtown arena, and adds it to the definition of "capital city project" under CGS Sec. 32-600. The feasibility study is anticipated to cost between \$150,000 and \$250,000.

Although PA 98-179 authorized \$15 million in General Obligation (GO) bond funds for renovations to the civic center and coliseum complex, the entire amount was allocated at the April 30, 2004 meeting of the State Bond Commission. PA 98-179 also authorized GO bonds for parking garages and riverfront infrastructure improvements near the Adrien's Landing Project. These funds have not been fully allocated, but the feasibility study in this bill does not conform to the description of uses eligible for funding from these sources.

Finally, CCEDA receives an annual grant from the Office of Policy and Management for its office budget, Front Street Maintenance, the Greater Hartford Convention and Visitors' Bureau and operating costs for the Convention Center. In the current fiscal year, FY 07, this grant is \$7.9 million, and in the Governor's recommended budget, HB 7077, recommends \$7.9 million each year of the biennium. The cost for the study is not part of these budgeted funds. CCEDA would require additional funds, or would have to make budget reductions elsewhere

in its budget to fund this study.

The Out Years

These costs are one-time in nature.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 7303*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW ARENA IN THE CITY OF HARTFORD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Capital City Economic Development Authority (CCEDA) to study the feasibility of replacing the Hartford Civic Center coliseum with a new arena. By law, CCEDA is in charge of various capital city projects in Hartford, including the renovation and rejuvenation of the civic center and coliseum complex. The bill expands the civic center project to include the new arena feasibility study, thus allowing CCEDA to fund the study from the proceeds of bonds issued for the project.

Until June 30, 2009, the law allows the State Bond Commission to authorize up to \$15 million in bonds for the civic center and coliseum complex renovation and rejuvenation project (CGS § 32-616 (b)(1)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/20/2007)