



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7070

LCO No. 3694

03694_____TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 13b-57 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
4 Transportation, may enter into a contract with a municipality, acting
5 by its harbor improvement agency, for state financial assistance for a
6 harbor improvement project pursuant to a harbor improvement plan
7 approved by the Commissioner of Transportation in the form of a state
8 grant-in-aid. [equal to two-thirds of the net cost of the project as
9 approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, provided state
10 financial assistance to any municipality for such purposes shall not
11 exceed one million dollars.] Any such application for state financial
12 assistance under this section shall be submitted by the Commissioner
13 of Transportation to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection
14 for his review. Said Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall
15 submit a written report to the Commissioner of Transportation, setting
16 forth his findings regarding such application.

17 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) In addition to municipal
18 requests for grant-in-aid, harbor improvement projects may be
19 initiated by the Commissioner of Transportation on behalf of the state
20 or for the state on behalf of the federal government. Recommendations
21 on the prioritization or inclusion of projects shall be submitted to the
22 commissioner by the Connecticut Maritime Commission. Services
23 delivered under all contracts resulting from this program shall be
24 provided to individual harbors and waterways on behalf of the
25 Department of Transportation; however, individual contracts shall be
26 funded, administered, paid and shall be otherwise subject to the
27 policies and requirements of the department. In special cases funding
28 may be transferred to other statutory agencies or municipalities at the
29 discretion of the department.

30 (b) Harbor improvement projects include the preparation of plans,
31 studies, construction, alteration, and the improvement of various state,
32 municipal and other properties both in and adjacent to the waters of
33 the state, and for the purpose of improving the economy and
34 infrastructure of the state.

35 (c) The department is responsible for contract administration. All
36 contracts are subject to final negotiation of the scope and budget for a
37 given project. Contracting periods may vary depending on each
38 project. Payments shall be made on a reimbursement basis for
39 deliverables completed no later than the dates of service of an executed
40 contract. Appropriate back up information shall be included with each
41 payment request indicating that services have been rendered. The
42 department may elect to provide part or all of the funds necessary as
43 an upfront payment, provided that funds are held in a separate, non-
44 interest bearing account and are expended not later than sixty days
45 after such funds are provided.

46 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes described
47 in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
48 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the

49 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
50 the aggregate fifty million dollars.

51 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
52 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
53 Department of Transportation for the purpose of establishing a Harbor
54 Improvement Fund. Such fund shall be renewed annually based on the
55 amount of funds obligated in the previous year.

56 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
57 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
58 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
59 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
60 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
61 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
62 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
63 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
64 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
65 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
66 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
67 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
68 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
69 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
70 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
71 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
72 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
73 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
74 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
75 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
76 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
77 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
78 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
79 due.

80 (d) Nonbonded state funds may be used for harbor improvement

81 projects at the Governor's discretion.

82 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Harbor Improvement Fund
83 may be used to support in full or in part local and state match
84 requirements for federal dredging projects. The Harbor Improvement
85 Fund may be used to pay the difference on federal dredging projects
86 between the federal least cost environmentally acceptable method of
87 disposing of dredge materials and the additional cost created by the
88 state's testing or disposal requirements. In certain situations, the
89 Harbor Improvement Fund may be used to cover part or all of the
90 costs associated with a federal dredging project in the absence of
91 adequate federal funds. In such situations, reimbursement to the
92 Harbor Improvement from the federal government shall be sought.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	13b-57
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To maintain the viability of the state's commercial and recreational ports.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]