



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5719

LCO No. 2524

02524_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING STEAP GRANTS AND THE CONVERSION OF PRIME FARMLAND TO NONAGRICULTURAL USE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 4-66g of the 2008 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

4 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
5 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
6 Office of Policy and Management for a small town economic assistance
7 program the purpose of which shall be to provide grants-in-aid to any
8 municipality that is not economically distressed within the meaning of
9 subsection (b) of section 32-9p, does not have an urban center in any
10 plan adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to section 16a-30 and
11 is not a public investment community within the meaning of
12 subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 7-545 of the 2008
13 supplement to the general statutes. Such grants shall be used for
14 purposes for which funds would be available under section 4-66c of
15 the 2008 supplement to the general statutes. No municipality may
16 receive more than five hundred thousand dollars in any one fiscal year

17 under said program. No such grant shall be awarded for a project that
18 converts twenty-five or more acres of prime farmland, as defined in
19 section 22-26bb, to nonagricultural use unless the Commissioner of
20 Agriculture has filed a statement with the Office of Policy and
21 Management indicating that (1) such project promotes agriculture or
22 the goal of agricultural land preservation or (2) there is no reasonable
23 alternative site for the project. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
24 subsection and section 4-66c of the 2008 supplement to the general
25 statutes, a municipality that is (1) a distressed municipality within the
26 meaning of subsection (b) of section 32-9p or a public investment
27 community within the meaning of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of
28 section 7-545 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, and (2)
29 otherwise eligible under this subsection for the small town economic
30 assistance program may elect to be eligible for said program in lieu of
31 being eligible for financial assistance under section 4-66c of the 2008
32 supplement to the general statutes, by a vote of its legislative body or,
33 in the case of a municipality in which the legislative body is a town
34 meeting, its board of selectmen, and submitting a written notice of
35 such vote to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.
36 Any such election shall be for the four-year period following
37 submission of such notice to the secretary and may be extended for
38 additional four-year periods in accordance with the same procedure
39 for the initial election.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	4-66g(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To require that small town economic assistance program grants for projects that would convert twenty-five or more acres of prime farmland to nonagricultural use be contingent upon a finding of the Commissioner of Agriculture that (1) such project promotes agriculture or the goal of agricultural land preservation or (2) there is no reasonable alternative site for the project.

[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.]