



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 456**

*January Session, 2009*

Substitute House Bill No. 6584

*House of Representatives, April 2, 2009*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. SHARKEY of the 88th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT HERITAGE AREAS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 section 2 of this act and section 16a-27 of the general statutes, as  
3 amended by this act, "Connecticut Heritage Area" means a place  
4 within the state that has been identified by the General Assembly as  
5 having significant historic, recreational, cultural, natural and scenic  
6 resources that form an important part of the state's heritage.

7 (b) Each state agency, department, board and commission (1) shall  
8 consider Connecticut Heritage Areas when developing planning  
9 documents and processes, and (2) may partner with the managing  
10 entities of such areas on projects concerning, but not limited to,  
11 environmental protection, heritage resource preservation, recreation,  
12 tourism and trail development.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The General Assembly

14 recognizes two Connecticut Heritage Areas: (1) The Quinebaug and  
15 Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, and (2) the Upper  
16 Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

17 Sec. 3. Section 16a-27 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

19 (a) The secretary, after consultation with all appropriate state,  
20 regional and local agencies and other appropriate persons, shall prior  
21 to March 1, 2009, complete a revision of the existing plan and enlarge it  
22 to include, but not be limited to, policies relating to transportation,  
23 energy and air. Any revision made after May 15, 1991, shall identify  
24 the major transportation proposals, including proposals for mass  
25 transit, contained in the master transportation plan prepared pursuant  
26 to section 13b-15. Any revision made after July 1, 1995, shall take into  
27 consideration the conservation and development of greenways that  
28 have been designated by municipalities and shall recommend that  
29 state agencies coordinate their efforts to support the development of a  
30 state-wide greenways system. The Commissioner of Environmental  
31 Protection shall identify state-owned land for inclusion in the plan as  
32 potential components of a state greenways system.

33 (b) Any revision made after August 20, 2003, shall take into account  
34 (1) economic and community development needs and patterns of  
35 commerce, and (2) linkages of affordable housing objectives and land  
36 use objectives with transportation systems.

37 (c) Any revision made after March 1, 2006, shall (1) take into  
38 consideration risks associated with natural hazards, including, but not  
39 limited to, flooding, high winds and wildfires; (2) identify the potential  
40 impacts of natural hazards on infrastructure and property; and (3)  
41 make recommendations for the siting of future infrastructure and  
42 property development to minimize the use of areas prone to natural  
43 hazards, including, but not limited to, flooding, high winds and  
44 wildfires.

45 (d) Any revision made after July 1, 2005, shall describe the progress

46 towards achievement of the goals and objectives established in the  
 47 previously adopted state plan of conservation and development and  
 48 shall identify (1) areas where it is prudent and feasible (A) to have  
 49 compact, transit accessible, pedestrian-oriented mixed-use  
 50 development patterns and land reuse, and (B) to promote such  
 51 development patterns and land reuse, (2) priority funding areas  
 52 designated under section 16a-35c, and (3) corridor management areas  
 53 on either side of a limited access highway or a rail line. In designating  
 54 corridor management areas, the secretary shall make  
 55 recommendations that (A) promote land use and transportation  
 56 options to reduce the growth of traffic congestion; (B) connect  
 57 infrastructure and other development decisions; (C) promote  
 58 development that minimizes the cost of new infrastructure facilities  
 59 and maximizes the use of existing infrastructure facilities; and (D)  
 60 increase intermunicipal and regional cooperation.

61 (e) Any revision made after October 1, 2008, shall (1) for each policy  
 62 recommended (A) assign a priority; (B) estimate funding for  
 63 implementation and identify potential funding sources; (C) identify  
 64 each entity responsible for implementation; and (D) establish a  
 65 schedule for implementation; and (2) for each growth management  
 66 principle, determine three benchmarks to measure progress in  
 67 implementation of the principles, one of which shall be a financial  
 68 benchmark.

69 (f) Any revision made after October 1, 2009, shall take into  
 70 consideration the protection and preservation of Connecticut Heritage  
 71 Areas.

72 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Thereafter on or before March first in each revision year the  
 73 secretary shall complete a revision of the plan of conservation and  
 74 development.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	16a-27

**PD**      *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:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 10 \$</b>	<b>FY 11 \$</b>
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

It is anticipated that the Office of Policy and Management can consider the heritage areas when updating the State Plan of Conservation and Development within the agencies normal budgetary resources.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6584*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT HERITAGE AREAS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes state entities to take certain actions in "Connecticut Heritage Areas." It defines these areas as places the legislature identified as having significant historic, recreational, cultural, natural, and scenic resources forming an important part of the state's heritage.

The bill requires state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider these areas when developing their planning documents and processes. It specifically requires the Office of Policy and Management to consider how to protect and conserve them when revising the State Plan of Conservation and Development after October 1, 2009. The bill allows state entities to collaborate with those managing the areas on environmental protection, heritage resource preservation, recreation, tourism, trail development, and other similar projects.

Lastly, the bill recognizes the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area as Connecticut Heritage Areas.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Related Bill***

SB 256 is identical to the bill. It was reported favorably by the Commerce and Environment Committees on March 10 and March 20, respectively.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 4 (03/13/2009)