



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Committee Bill No. 5267**

LCO No. 4950

\*04950HB05267ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SMALL TOWN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS TO CONVERT 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 general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2009*):

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. Such grants shall be  
13 used for purposes for which funds would be available under section 4-  
14 66c. No municipality may receive more than five hundred thousand  
15 dollars in any one fiscal year under said program. No such grant shall

16 be awarded for a project that converts prime farmland, as defined in  
 17 section 22-26bb, to nonagricultural use, unless the municipality (1)  
 18 permanently protects a parcel of prime farmland that is equivalent in  
 19 acreage to the farmland that would be converted by such project, or (2)  
 20 has demonstrated a commitment to agricultural land preservation by  
 21 not less than two of the following methods: (A) Enacting a right-to-  
 22 farm ordinance, (B) establishing a fund, the sole purpose of which is to  
 23 preserve farmland, or (C) adopting regulations that allow for the  
 24 transfer of development rights for the purpose of preserving farmland.  
 25 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection and section 4-66c, a  
 26 municipality that is (1) a distressed municipality within the meaning of  
 27 subsection (b) of section 32-9p or a public investment community  
 28 within the meaning of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 7-545,  
 29 and (2) otherwise eligible under this subsection for the small town  
 30 economic assistance program may elect to be eligible for said program  
 31 in lieu of being eligible for financial assistance under section 4-66c, by a  
 32 vote of its legislative body or, in the case of a municipality in which the  
 33 legislative body is a town meeting, its board of selectmen, and  
 34 submitting a written notice of such vote to the Secretary of the Office  
 35 of Policy and Management. Any such election shall be for the four-year  
 36 period following submission of such notice to the secretary and may be  
 37 extended for additional four-year periods in accordance with the same  
 38 procedure for the initial election.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2009	4-66g(b)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To protect farmland by requiring municipalities who intend to use state funds for economic development under the small town economic assistance program to convert prime farmland to nonagricultural use to preserve an equivalent parcel of farmland or take other measures to preserve farmland in such municipality.

*[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.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. CHAPIN, 67th Dist.; REP. ROY, 119th Dist.  
SEN. MEYER, 12th Dist.; REP. FRITZ, 90th Dist.  
REP. BERGER, 73rd Dist.

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