



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5267**

January Session, 2009

\*        HB05267FIN        050409        \*

**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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  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) (1) 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 (A)  
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 (B)

20 has demonstrated a commitment to agricultural land preservation by  
21 implementing not less than two of the following methods: (i) Enacting  
22 a right-to-farm ordinance, (ii) establishing a fund, the sole purpose of  
23 which is to preserve farmland, or (iii) adopting regulations that allow  
24 for the transfer of development rights for the purpose of preserving  
25 farmland.

26 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection and section 4-  
27 66c, a municipality that is [(1)] (A) a distressed municipality within the  
28 meaning of subsection (b) of section 32-9p or a public investment  
29 community within the meaning of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of  
30 section 7-545, and [(2)] (B) otherwise eligible under this subsection for  
31 the small town economic assistance program may elect to be eligible  
32 for said program in lieu of being eligible for financial assistance under  
33 section 4-66c, by a vote of its legislative body or, in the case of a  
34 municipality in which the legislative body is a town meeting, its board  
35 of selectmen, and submitting a written notice of such vote to the  
36 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Any such election  
37 shall be for the four-year period following submission of such notice to  
38 the secretary and may be extended for additional four-year periods in  
39 accordance with the same 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)