
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6602

AN ACT CONCERNING AGENCY REGULATIONS, A CLARIFICATION OF "DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITY" AND OBSOLETE STATUTES CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

SUMMARY:

This bill:

1. eliminates the requirement that state agencies deliver, by mail only, notice of intent to adopt regulations to legislative committees of cognizance and individuals requesting notice, thus allowing them to deliver notice by other means (§ 1);
2. authorizes agencies to provide electronic, not just paper, copies of proposed regulations (§ 1);
3. repeals the provision under which the Bradley Airport Development Zone (BADZ) is designated a "distressed municipality" and thus qualifies for funds under various programs (see BACKGROUND) (§ 2);
4. eliminates the defunct Connecticut Progress Council and a reference to it (§§ 3 and 4); and
5. repeals the requirement that the governor report to the General Assembly three times yearly on whether a deficit is projected for the current fiscal year (see BACKGROUND) (§ 4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011, except the provision concerning BADZ is effective October 1, 2011.

GOVERNOR'S DEFICIT REPORT

Current law requires the governor to report to the General Assembly on the 30th day of October, January, and April on whether

there is a deficit expected for the current fiscal year. The bill eliminates this requirement but maintains other budget reporting requirements (see BACKGROUND).

BACKGROUND

BADZ

BADZ encompasses parts of East Granby, Suffield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks and is designated a “distressed municipality.” By law, this designation qualifies the four towns for (1) grants to acquire and preserve open spaces in the zone and plan municipal development projects and (2) Urban Act funds for community conservation and development projects in the zone, among other things (CGS §§ 4-66c(c), 8-190, and 8-195).

The designation also disqualifies projects in the zone for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funds. Non-distressed municipalities qualify for STEAP funds if they do not have an urban center and are not a public investment community. However, the four towns in the BADZ may choose to remain eligible for STEAP funds in lieu of Urban Act funds.

Fiscal Reports

By law, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) provides the comptroller with a cumulative monthly statement of revenues and expenditures, together with a (1) statement of estimated revenue by source to the end of the fiscal year and (2) statement of the General Fund’s appropriation requirements to the end of the fiscal year itemized as far as practicable for each budgeted agency, including (a) estimates of lapsing appropriations, (b) unallocated lapsing balances, and (c) unallocated appropriation requirements. OPM must provide the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) with a copy of the monthly data (CGS § 4-66).

In addition, the OPM secretary must submit, through OFA, to the governor, comptroller, and Appropriations Committee a monthly list of appropriation accounts in which a potential deficiency exists. The list must include an explanation for each potential deficiency (CGS § 2-

36).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/30/2011)