
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 829

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE REGISTRY.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires UCONN's Center for Land Use Education and Research to develop a registry of the state's preserved open space and agricultural land. The center may seek funding from federal, state, or other sources to develop and maintain the registry.

The bill also requires the Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board to make recommendations to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner concerning the commissioner's duty to develop priorities for acquiring land for preservation. It requires the board to meet at least once per calendar quarter and to include in its annual report the established acquisition priorities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for provisions relating to the registry, which are effective October 1, 2011.

OPEN SPACE AND AGRICULTURAL LAND REGISTRY

The center must determine the scope of information contained in the registry for each property. In developing the registry, the center may consult with the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. The registry must be available online to municipalities and state agencies to monitor, coordinate, and implement open space, farmland preservation, and responsible growth goals.

DEP Requirements

The bill requires the DEP commissioner to:

1. analyze whether the preserved open space and agricultural lands are effective in protecting the state's Comprehensive

Wildlife Conservation Strategy's list of endangered, threatened, or special concern animals;

2. create and maintain a map of the registry's properties; and
3. identify and prioritize the property that needs to be acquired to protect the habitats of species needing greatest conservation, as identified in the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 1 (03/09/2011)