
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 833

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPROVAL AND SITING OF CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER APPLICATIONS.

SUMMARY:

Under current law, the Connecticut Siting Council has exclusive jurisdiction over certain telecommunication tower siting and, when evaluating applications, it must consider location preferences or criteria provided by the municipality or in existing zoning regulations.

This bill prohibits the council from approving or certifying an application to erect a telecommunications tower 250 yards or less from a residential dwelling, place of worship, school, or day care center unless (1) the planning and zoning commission of the municipality where the tower will be sited approves or (2) the municipality's legislative body votes to yield its approval authority for the application to the council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND

Related Federal Law

State and local agencies must comply with the 1996 federal Telecommunications Act in regulating personal wireless services facilities (those used to provide cellular and related services). Among other things, agencies may not:

1. "zone out" such facilities (i.e., adopt regulations that have the effect of barring telecommunications facilities),
2. unreasonably discriminate among providers of functionally equivalent services, or
3. regulate a facility on the basis of its radiofrequency emissions if

the emissions are within Federal Communications Commission limits.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 7 (03/09/2011)