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## **OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

### **HB 5319**

#### ***AN ACT INCREASING FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF MUNICIPAL BLIGHT ORDINANCES.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the daily fine that a municipality may impose for violating regulations preventing housing blight from between \$10 and \$100 per day to:

1. \$100 per day for the first 30 days of the violation,
2. \$250 per day for the 31<sup>st</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup> days of the violation, and
3. \$500 per day from the 61<sup>st</sup> day of the violation until it is corrected.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Blight Ordinances***

By law, municipalities can adopt an ordinance to prevent housing blight and impose fines for each day that a violation continues. Any unpaid fine imposed by a municipality under a blight ordinance is a lien on the property against which the fine was imposed. Such liens take precedence over all other liens and encumbrances, except taxes, filed after July 1, 1997 (CGS § 7-148aa).

Municipalities that choose to issue citations for violating anti-blight ordinances must follow a statutory procedure for notifying property owners about alleged violations and their right to a hearing. Under CGS § 7-152c, the procedure for receiving notice of an alleged violation and for contesting it is the same as that for municipal parking tickets.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 4 (03/07/2012)