

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-132—sHB 6235

Planning and Development Committee

Judiciary Committee

**AN ACT CREATING A STATE-WIDE TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS
BLIGHT AND CONCERNING NOTICE OF FINES, PENALTIES, COSTS
OR FEES FOR CITATIONS ISSUED UNDER MUNICIPAL
ORDINANCES**

SUMMARY: This act limits a person's ability to claim a citation notice was not received when contesting a municipal default judgment. The act presumes a municipal citation notice was properly sent if it is sent to a person's last known address, as listed in the tax collector's records. By law, within 12 months of the uncontested fine payment period's expiration, a municipality must send notice to the alleged offender. The notice must state, among other things, the (1) allegations; (2) amount of the fines, penalties, costs, or fees due; and (3) person's right to a hearing. If a person does not respond to the notice within the 10-day period, a default judgment may be entered against him or her.

The act also establishes a 15-member task force to study procedural problems in addressing blight at the municipal level. The task force must draft model municipal blight ordinances and propose legislation to help municipalities address blight more effectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013, except the task force provision is effective upon passage.

MUNICIPAL BLIGHT TASK FORCE

The task force consists of the following 15 members:

1. the Planning and Development Committee chairpersons and ranking members or their designees;
2. two members appointed by the House speaker, one of whom must represent residential tenants;
3. two members appointed by the Senate president pro tempore, one of whom must represent residential landlords;
4. one member appointed by the House majority leader, who must represent the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;
5. one member appointed by the Senate majority leader, who must represent the International Council of Shopping Centers;
6. one member appointed by the House minority leader, who must represent the Connecticut Business and Industry Association;
7. one member appointed by the Senate minority leader, who must represent the Connecticut Council of Small Towns;

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8. one legislator appointed by the Planning and Development Committee chairpersons, who represents a municipality with a population of at least 100,000 (i.e., Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, or Waterbury);
9. the chief state's attorney or his designee; and
10. the president and chief executive officer of Connecticut Main Street Center or his designee.

The appointing authorities must make their appointments by July 18, 2013 and fill any vacancies. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore select the task force chairpersons from among the task force members. The chairpersons must schedule the first task force meeting by August 17, 2013. The Planning and Development Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

The task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Planning and Development Committee by February 5, 2014. It terminates on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

OLR Tracking: JB:DC:VR:RO