

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 14-139—sHB 5056

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN STATUTES CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES, REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS AND TAX EXEMPTIONS AND CONCERNING GROWTH-RELATED PROJECTS

SUMMARY: This act raises, from \$100,000 to \$200,000, the threshold at which certain state agency capital projects and grant authorizations are considered growth-related projects and thus must be undertaken in designated priority funding areas. Existing law (1) requires the State Plan of Conservation and Development (C&D) to identify these areas and (2) generally prohibits state agencies, departments, or institutions from providing funding for growth-related projects outside of these areas. By raising this threshold, the act aligns it with the threshold the law sets for state agency actions that must be consistent with the State Plan of C&D (§ 5).

The act subjects state grants of more than \$200,000 to the priority funding area restrictions if the grant is for a project that adds to an existing facility. As under existing law, grants for certain projects and activities, including for maintaining, repairing, or renovating existing facilities, are exempt from the restrictions (§ 5).

The act makes changes to conform with PA 13-247, which eliminates regional planning agencies after January 1, 2015, leaving regional councils of governments (COG) as the only regional planning organizations within the state's planning regions (§§ 1 & 2). It also makes changes to conform with PA 11-61, which repealed state payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) for manufacturing machinery and equipment and commercial truck tax exemptions (§ 6).

The act also makes technical changes (§§ 3 & 4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the growth-related project provision, which is effective October 1, 2014, and the COG provisions, which are effective January 1, 2015.

STATE FUNDING FOR GROWTH-RELATED PROJECTS

Project Thresholds

The act raises, from \$100,000 to \$200,000, the threshold at which the following activities are considered growth-related projects:

1. acquiring real property, other than open space for conservation or preservation purposes;
2. developing or improving real property;
3. acquiring public transportation facilities or equipment; and

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

4. authorizing state grants, with certain exceptions, if the grant application was not pending on July 1, 2006, to (a) acquire, develop, or improve real property or (b) acquire public transportation equipment or facilities.

By law, when the state agency actions described above exceed \$200,000 and are funded by the state or federal government, they must be consistent with the State Plan of C&D (CGS § 16a-31).

OLR Tracking: JB:CR:VR:ro