



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 556

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 521

Senate, April 17, 2018

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist. and SEN. KISSEL of the 7th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 18-81l of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 (a) The Department of Correction shall (1) require each applicant for
4 a position that will involve direct contact with inmates to state whether
5 such person has ever been convicted of a crime or whether criminal
6 charges are pending against such person at the time of such person's
7 application, and (2) require each applicant to submit to state and
8 national criminal history records checks. The criminal history records
9 checks required pursuant to this section shall be conducted in
10 accordance with section 29-17a.

11 (b) The Department of Correction shall require each applicant for a
12 position with the department to submit to a preemployment

13 psychological examination. Such examination shall be administered to
14 the applicant after all other portions of the department's employment
15 testing and selection process have been completed and prior to any
16 offer of employment being made to the applicant. The Commissioner
17 of Correction shall determine the appropriate preemployment
18 psychological examination to be used by the department in its hiring
19 process. Any cost associated with the administration of the
20 preemployment psychological examination shall be borne by the
21 applicant.

22 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 18-87k of the general statutes is
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
24 *1, 2018*):

25 (a) The Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission shall: (1)
26 Develop and recommend policies for preventing prison and jail
27 overcrowding; (2) examine the impact of statutory provisions and
28 current administrative policies on prison and jail overcrowding and
29 recommend legislation to the Governor and the General Assembly; (3)
30 research and gather relevant statistical data and other information
31 concerning the impact of efforts to prevent prison and jail
32 overcrowding and make such information available to criminal justice
33 agencies and members of the General Assembly; (4) advise the
34 undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division on
35 policies and procedures to promote more effective and cohesive state
36 criminal justice and juvenile justice systems and to develop and
37 implement the offender reentry strategy as provided in section 18-81w;
38 (5) monitor developments throughout the state's criminal justice
39 system and, not later than February 15, 2009, and annually thereafter,
40 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the effectiveness
41 of the state's reentry strategy, outcomes achieved under the reentry
42 strategy and the level of integration and coordination of the
43 information technology systems used by the criminal justice agencies
44 and other system-wide issues identified by the commission; (6) not
45 later than February 15, 2009, and annually thereafter, sponsor for all
46 members of the criminal justice community a full-day review of the

47 criminal justice system in the state including progress that has been
48 made within the past year and challenges to be met, which review
49 shall be facilitated by the undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy
50 and Planning Division; (7) identify specific needs for reentry services
51 in geographic areas throughout the state; (8) identify institution-based
52 and community-based programs and services that effectively address
53 offender needs and reduce recidivism including, but not limited to,
54 education and training, employment preparation and job bank,
55 transitional health care, family support, substance abuse, domestic
56 violence and sexual offender programs and services; (9) develop a
57 guide to best practices in the provision of reentry services; (10) develop
58 and annually update a plan to ensure the availability of reentry
59 services, which plan may include establishment of community reentry
60 centers; [and] (11) assist the undersecretary of the Criminal Justice
61 Policy and Planning Division in developing the recommendations
62 included in the report and presentation made by the division pursuant
63 to section 4-68p; and (12) administer the First Chance Trust Fund
64 established pursuant to section 3 of this act.

65 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) There is established a fund to
66 be known as the "First Chance Trust Fund" which shall be a separate,
67 nonlapsing fund. The fund shall contain any moneys required by law
68 to be deposited in the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be expended by
69 the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission for the purpose of
70 providing grants to evidence-based programs that benefit at-risk youth
71 residing in any distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p of
72 the general statutes.

73 (b) The Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission may (1)
74 accept, on behalf of the fund, (A) private donations, (B) any bequest or
75 gift of personal property and may hold and use such property for the
76 purposes specified in such bequest or gift, and (C) any moneys
77 received by a state agency from the withholding imposed on state
78 contracts pursuant to section 4 of this act; and (2) apply for federal,
79 state, private and nonprofit foundation funding to further the
80 purposes of the fund.

81 (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
82 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
83 the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

84 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of
85 Policy and Management, in consultation with the Commissioners of
86 Correction and Administrative Services and the State Contracting
87 Standards Board, shall develop a mechanism that permits a state
88 agency to assess a one per cent withholding on any state contract, (1)
89 as defined in section 4e-1 of the general statutes, other than a state
90 contract with a nonprofit agency, (2) entered into, modified or
91 renewed, on or after July 1, 2018, and (3) which has a total contract
92 price exceeding one million dollars. Moneys withheld through the
93 mechanism established pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited
94 in the "First Chance Trust Fund" established pursuant to section 3 of
95 this act by the state agency assessing the one per cent withholding.

96 (b) In carrying out the duties prescribed in subsection (a) of this
97 section, the secretary shall solicit and consider feedback from
98 contractors, as defined in section 4e-1 of the general statutes,
99 concerning limitations on the types of contracts that shall be subject to
100 the withholding described in subsection (a) of this section. The
101 secretary may offer recommendations on additional statutory or
102 regulatory changes that are needed, if any, to effectuate the provisions
103 of this section.

104 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) The Commissioner of
105 Correction shall, within available appropriations, establish a wellness
106 initiative for the benefit of employees of the Department of Correction
107 who interact with inmates at correctional facilities. The wellness
108 initiative shall include the following components: An employee
109 assistance program, a peer support program, stress management
110 training, critical incident stress response, military peer support, an
111 employee safety and health committee, periodic wellness fairs and
112 other programs that have a demonstrated effectiveness in addressing
113 the needs of employees who interact with inmates. The commissioner,

114 or the commissioner's designee, may apply for federal, state or private
115 nonprofit funding to support and advance the objectives of the
116 wellness initiative.

117 Sec. 6. Section 18-98f of the general statutes is repealed and the
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

119 Not later than January 1, [2016] 2019, and quarterly thereafter, the
120 [Commissioner of Correction, after consultation with the] Criminal
121 Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and
122 Management, after consultation with the Commissioner of Correction,
123 shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, report to the
124 General Assembly details about earned risk reduction credits awarded
125 to reduce an inmate's sentence pursuant to section 18-98e, as amended
126 by this act. Such report shall include: (1) The number of inmates
127 released overall and the number of inmates released early as a result of
128 the award of such credit; (2) the crimes for which such released
129 inmates were convicted; (3) the amount of risk reduction credit earned
130 by inmates released early pursuant to such credit; and (4) any
131 recidivism data regarding inmates who were released early pursuant
132 to such credit, including any data such as rate of reentry into the
133 correctional system, elapsed time between release and such reentry,
134 and the crimes for which such inmates were convicted that resulted in
135 such reentry. Not later than thirty days after submission of the report
136 to the General Assembly, said commissioner shall post the report on
137 the Department of Correction's Internet web site.

138 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 18-98e of the general statutes is
139 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
140 *October 1, 2018*):

141 (e) Prior to release of any inmate whose sentence is being reduced
142 due to risk reduction credits earned pursuant to this section, the
143 [warden of the correctional facility from which such inmate is to be
144 released] commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall review
145 such inmate's records and verify that the inmate earned the risk
146 reduction credits being applied to reduce such inmate's sentence.

147 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 18-88 of the general statutes is
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
149 *October 1, 2018*):

150 (b) The commissioner shall approve the establishment and
151 maintenance of any and all such industrial activities, [including] which
152 may include, but need not be limited to, an optical shop to produce
153 prescription eyeglasses for inmates of correctional institutions, for
154 persons under state care in other institutions and for other persons
155 receiving or eligible to receive benefits under Title XIX of the federal
156 Social Security Act, as amended, provided such optical shop is under
157 the direct supervision of an optician licensed under chapter 381, and
158 provided further such eyeglasses are prescribed by an optometrist
159 licensed under chapter 380, and are fitted by such licensed optometrist
160 or by an optician licensed under chapter 381, after considering and
161 determining the extent, if any, to which each industry may compete
162 with private industry and, as far as possible, shall encourage a
163 diversified program. If [said] the optical shop is unable to fill the
164 prescription for such eyeglasses for any reason, within the two-week
165 period from its receipt of such prescription, [said] the shop shall notify
166 the person who prescribed such eyeglasses within ten days after
167 receipt of such prescription.

168 Sec. 9. Subsection (f) of section 18-88 of the general statutes is
169 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
170 *October 1, 2018*):

171 (f) Any political subdivision of the state or federal government, [or]
172 any private nonprofit entity, including one which receives all or part of
173 its revenues from any political subdivision of the state or federal
174 government or any benefit corporation created under chapter 604, may
175 purchase any articles, materials or products required by it which are
176 produced or manufactured by the institution industries, and any
177 person may purchase products and by-products of farming operations
178 in accordance with section 53-329. The commissioner may promulgate
179 and circulate at sufficiently frequent intervals for distribution to the

180 Commissioner of Administrative Services, the Comptroller and such
181 political subdivisions a catalog showing styles, designs, sizes and
182 varieties of all articles, materials and products manufactured and
183 produced at the institutions and periodical price lists for all such
184 articles.

185 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 18-85 of the general statutes is
186 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
187 *October 1, 2018*):

188 (b) Compensation so earned shall be deposited, under the direction
189 of the Commissioner of Correction, in an account in a savings bank or
190 state bank and trust company in this state or an account administered
191 by the State Treasurer. Any compensation so earned shall be paid to
192 the inmate on the inmate's release from incarceration, except that the
193 commissioner may, while the inmate is in custody, disburse any
194 compensation earned by such inmate in accordance with the following
195 priorities: (1) Federal taxes due; (2) restitution or payment of
196 compensation to a crime victim ordered by any court of competent
197 jurisdiction; (3) payment of a civil judgment rendered in favor of a
198 crime victim by any court of competent jurisdiction; (4) victims
199 compensation through the criminal injuries account administered by
200 the Office of Victim Services; (5) state taxes due; (6) support of the
201 inmate's dependents, if any; (7) the inmate's necessary travel expense
202 to and from work and other incidental expenses; (8) [deposits credited
203 to the inmate's discharge savings account under section 18-84a; (9)]
204 costs of such inmate's incarceration under section 18-85a, as amended
205 by this act, and regulations adopted in accordance with said section;
206 and [(10)] (9) payment to the clerk of the court in which an inmate,
207 confined in a correctional facility only for payment of a fine, was
208 convicted, such portion of such compensation as is necessary to pay
209 such fine. Any interest that accrues shall be credited to any
210 institutional fund established for the welfare of inmates.
211 Compensation under this section shall be in addition to any
212 compensation received or credited under section 18-50.

213 Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 18-85a of the general statutes is
214 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
215 *October 1, 2018*):

216 (b) The state shall have a claim against each inmate for the costs of
217 such inmate's incarceration under this section, and regulations
218 adopted in accordance with this section, for which the state has not
219 been reimbursed. Any property owned by such inmate may be used to
220 satisfy such claim, except property that is: (1) Exempt pursuant to
221 section 52-352b or 52-352d, except as provided in subsection (b) of
222 section 52-321a; (2) subject to the provisions of section 54-218; (3)
223 acquired by such inmate after the inmate is released from
224 incarceration, but not including property so acquired that is subject to
225 the provisions of section 18-85b, 18-85c or 52-367c, and except as
226 provided in subsection (b) of section 52-321a; or (4) acquired by such
227 inmate for work performed during incarceration as part of a program
228 designated or defined in regulations adopted by the Commissioner of
229 Correction, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, as a job
230 training, skill development or career opportunity or enhancement
231 program, other than a pilot program established pursuant to section
232 18-90b, as amended by this act, except that the commissioner may
233 assess a fee for participation in any such program. [; or (5) credited to a
234 discharge savings account pursuant to section 18-84a, not in excess of
235 one thousand dollars.] In addition to other remedies available at law,
236 the Attorney General, on request of the Commissioner of Correction,
237 may bring an action in the superior court for the judicial district of
238 Hartford to enforce such claim, provided no such action shall be
239 brought but within two years from the date the inmate is released from
240 incarceration or, if the inmate dies while in the custody of the
241 commissioner, within two years from the date of the inmate's death,
242 except that such limitation period shall not apply if such property was
243 fraudulently concealed from the state.

244 Sec. 12. Subsection (f) of section 18-90b of the general statutes is
245 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
246 *October 1, 2018*):

247 (f) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to restore in whole or in
248 part the civil rights of any inmate. No inmate compensated for
249 participation in the program shall be considered to be an employee of
250 the state or exempt from the provisions of [(1) section 18-84a, or (2)]
251 section 18-85a, as amended by this act, and regulations adopted in
252 accordance with said section.

253 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 18-101 of the general statutes is
254 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
255 *October 1, 2018*):

256 (b) On granting privileges to any inmate under section 18-100, the
257 commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall disburse any
258 compensation earned by such inmate in accordance with the following
259 priorities: (1) Federal taxes due; (2) restitution or payment of
260 compensation to a crime victim ordered by any court of competent
261 jurisdiction; (3) payment of a civil judgment rendered in favor of a
262 crime victim by any court of competent jurisdiction; (4) victims
263 compensation through the criminal injuries account administered by
264 the Office of Victim Services; (5) state taxes due; (6) support of such
265 inmate's dependents, if any; (7) such inmate's necessary travel expense
266 to and from work and other incidental expenses; and (8) [deposits
267 credited to the inmate's discharge savings account under section 18-
268 84a; and (9)] costs of such inmate's incarceration under section 18-85a,
269 as amended by this act, and regulations adopted in accordance with
270 said section. The commissioner shall pay any balance remaining to
271 such inmate upon the inmate's release from incarceration, [including
272 any amount credited to a discharge savings account pursuant to
273 section 18-84a.] Each inmate gainfully self-employed shall pay to the
274 commissioner the costs of such inmate's incarceration under section 18-
275 85a, as amended by this act, and regulations adopted in accordance
276 with said section, and on default in payment thereof the inmate's
277 participation under section 18-100 shall be revoked.

278 Sec. 14. Section 18-84a of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
279 *October 1, 2018*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-81l
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	18-87k(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-98f
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-98e(e)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-88(b)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-88(f)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-85(b)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-85a(b)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-90b(f)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	18-101(b)
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	Repealer section

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Admin. Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	46,721	46,721
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	16,974	16,974
Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	1,000	1,000
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Minimal Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes various changes to the statutes governing the Department of Correction (DOC) and results in a cost to the state.

Section 1 requires any applicant to the DOC to submit a pre-employment psychological examination and results in no cost to the state due to the applicant paying any associated fees.

Sections 2-4 and 6 establish the First Chance Trust Fund, a non-lapsing fund administered by the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC). The bill specifies that the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) develop a mechanism that allows any state agency to assess a 1%

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.33% of payroll in FY 19 and FY 20.

withholding on certain state contracts, and to deposit any revenue generated from the withholding into the First Chance Trust Fund. It then requires CJPAC to use that revenue to provide grants for programs for at-risk youth in distressed municipalities.

It is anticipated that DAS would need to hire a Processing Technician to process any 1% contract withholdings. The annualized cost for a Processing Technician is anticipated to be about \$63,695 (\$46,721 for salary and \$16,974 for fringe benefits).

The 1% withholding on certain contracts results in the vendor not being paid 100%. It is anticipated that certain vendors may increase their bids to cover for the 1% withholding. To the extent that agencies choose to assess the 1% withholding, this could increase contract costs, which could be significant.

The bill makes a change to the risk reduction credits report and results in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 5 requires the Commissioner of DOC to establish a wellness initiative for the benefit of employees who interact with inmates and results in a cost to the state of \$1,000 per year for supplies and materials.

Section 7 makes a procedural change for who reviews an inmates risk reduction credits and results in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 8 makes a technical change regarding the establishment and maintenance of optical shops and results in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 9 allows the DOC Correctional Enterprises to sell products to benefit corporations and results in potential minimal revenue gain. There are approximately 120 benefit corporations in Connecticut and based on their business it appears that the Correctional Enterprises will not meet the needs of most of them resulting in a potential minimal revenue gain to the state.

Section 10 eliminates inmate discharge savings accounts and results in no fiscal impact to the state.

Sections 11-14 make conforming changes to statute and result in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 521*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes in the statutes governing the Department of Correction (DOC). Principally, it:

1. establishes a “First Chance Trust Fund” administered by the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC), to provide grants to programs benefitting at-risk youth in distressed municipalities, funded by an optional 1% withholding on certain state contracts (§§ 2-4);
2. requires DOC employment applicants to submit to a pre-employment psychological examination (§ 1);
3. requires the DOC commissioner, within available appropriations, to establish a wellness initiative for employees who interact with inmates at correctional facilities (§ 5);
4. makes CJPAC, instead of the DOC commissioner, primarily responsible for quarterly reporting to the legislature about earned risk reduction credits awarded to reduce any inmate’s sentence (§ 6);
5. requires the DOC commissioner or his designee, instead of the warden at the correctional facility from where an inmate will be released, to review the inmate’s records and verify that the inmate earned any risk reduction credits being applied to reduce his or her sentence (§ 7);
6. allows, instead of requires, the DOC commissioner to approve

the establishment and maintenance of an optical shop to produce prescription eyeglasses for inmates (§ 8);

7. adds benefit corporations to the entities that may purchase articles, materials, or products produced or manufactured by correctional institution industries (i.e., Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut) (§ 9);
8. eliminates the law, which was never implemented, that required the DOC commissioner to establish inmate discharge saving accounts and makes conforming changes (§§ 10-14); and
9. makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018, except the provisions related to the First Chance Trust Fund and wellness initiative are effective July 1, 2018.

§§ 2-4 — FIRST CHANCE TRUST FUND

The bill establishes the “First Chance Trust Fund” as a separate nonlapsing fund. CJPAC, which is within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), must administer the fund and use it to provide grants to evidence-based programs that benefit at-risk youth living in distressed municipalities (see BACKGROUND).

Sources of Funding

The bill permits CJPAC to accept, on the fund’s behalf:

1. private donations,
2. any funds a state agency receives from a withholding imposed on a state contract (as described below), and
3. any bequest or gift of personal property (CJPAC may hold and use the property for the purposes the bequest or gift specifies).

The bill also allows CJPAC to apply for federal, state, private, and nonprofit foundation funding to further the fund’s purposes.

The bill requires the OPM secretary to adopt regulations in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act to implement these provisions.

Contract Withholding

The bill requires the OPM secretary, in consultation with the DOC and administrative services commissioners and the state contracting standards board, to develop a mechanism that allows a state agency to assess a 1% withholding on any state contract with a total price greater than \$1 million that is entered into, modified, or renewed on or after July 1, 2018. The bill exempts contracts with nonprofit agencies that otherwise satisfy the criteria. Any funds withheld through this mechanism must be deposited into the First Chance Trust Fund.

In developing the withholding mechanism, the OPM secretary must solicit and consider feedback from contractors regarding limitations on the types of contracts that would be subject to the withholding. The secretary may offer recommendations on any statutory and regulatory changes needed to effectuate the withholding.

§ 1 — PRE-EMPLOYMENT PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

Under the bill, DOC must require employment applicants to submit to a pre-employment psychological examination. The exam must be administered to the applicant, at his or her expense, after the department's other employment testing and selection process is complete, but prior to an employment offer. The commissioner must determine the appropriate examination for DOC to use for this purpose.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, requires DOC employment applicants to submit to state and national criminal history records checks.

§ 5 — EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

This bill requires the DOC commissioner, within available appropriations, to establish a wellness initiative for department employees who interact with inmates at correctional facilities. The

initiative must include the following:

1. employee assistance and peer support programs,
2. stress management training and critical incident stress response,
3. military peer support,
4. an employee safety and health committee,
5. periodic wellness fairs, and
6. other programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in addressing the needs of employees who interact with inmates.

The commissioner or his designee may apply for federal, state, or private nonprofit funding to support and advance the initiative's objectives.

§ 6 — EARNED RISK REDUCTION CREDITS REPORT

Under the bill, beginning by January 1, 2019, CJPAC must report quarterly to the General Assembly, after consulting with the DOC commissioner, on any earned risk reduction credits awarded to reduce an inmate's sentence. Currently, the commissioner is responsible for reporting this information, after consulting with CJPAC. By law, the report includes such things as how many inmates were released early due to receiving credits, the inmates' crimes, the amount of credits received, and recidivism data.

BACKGROUND

Distressed Municipalities

The Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner annually scores and ranks municipalities based on demographic and economic distress criteria and designates the 25 municipalities with the highest scores as distressed (CGS § 32-9p). The criteria are based on:

1. per capita income;

2. poverty rate;
3. unemployment rate;
4. change in population, employment rate, and per capita income;
5. the percentage of housing units built before 1939;
6. the percentage of residents with at least a high school diploma;
and
7. the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita.

The commissioner can also designate a municipality as distressed for two years if it suffers a major plant closing, relocation, or layoff. A municipality that drops off the list retains the distressed municipality designation for five years, unless it elects to terminate its designation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/03/2018)