

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-342

AN ACT CONCERNING THE THRESHOLD FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE

Title: TREATMENT SEPTIC SYSTEMS.

Vote Date: 3/22/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/14/2018

File No.: 158

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To review alternative treatment for septic systems with a capacity of seven thousand five hundred gallons.

Substitute Language LCO No.3060:

The Department of Energy and environmental Protection shall authorize the use of alternative treatment septic systems if the use of such system: (1) Replaces and existing failing septic system, (2) does not allow for the further subdivision of the subject property, and (3) does not result in an increase in the number of bedrooms for any dwelling or improvement upon such subject property.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Robert Klee, Commissioner, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection:

This would clarify the regulatory threshold for jurisdiction over alternative sewage treatment systems in CT.

Raul Pino, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Public Health:

We do not oppose raising the cited jurisdictional threshold in the statute, but do oppose legislation that requires the Department to develop regulations and an accompanying program for alternative sewage systems without the necessary resources.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Bill Ethier, Chief Executive Officer, Home Builders & Remodelers Association:

The bill with substitute language and directing both DEEP and DPH to investigate or adopt additional ways as detailed in their testimony.

Michael Piscitelli, President, Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association:

We recommend that DPH be given a stronger directive to establish the AT system review criteria that was mandated in 2007 and has not as yet been undertaken by the DPH.

Sean Ghio, Partnership for Strong Communities:

This bill can reduce sprawl and allow for smaller, denser and more affordable homes in our state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Margaret Miner, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut:

Small ATS are almost always problematic and owners lack the expertise and funding to maintain them. We ask the committee not to approve this bill and react with caution when planning to adopt legislative changes to the rules for ATS.

Alice Charamut, River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy:

Feels it is best to leave the determination of thresholds and criteria to the professionals at DEEP.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca, Assistant Clerk 03/23/2018