

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5283

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONES.

Vote Date: 3/16/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/5/2018

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following Joint Favorable Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Representative Steven J. Stafstrom, Representative Jack Hennessey, Senator Marilyn V. Moore

REASONS FOR BILL:

Currently, Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Committees and residents are potentially exposed to lawsuits and legal battles when asserting opposition against local developments within their neighborhoods. This bill proposes an extension to Section 7-601 of the general statutes, requiring that municipalities extend legal counsel to NRZ Committees regarding defense in civil action, and provide restitution to the committee or its affected members in the result of imposed settlement in a judgement against them.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Joseph W. Ianniello, Executive Member of the Black Rock NRZ: Mr. Ianniello provided testimony in support of this bill as it will mitigate harassment and intimidation from developers. Mr. Ianniello shared experiences involving a year of negotiation between the NRZ and a developer that petitioned the zoning board to allow them to replace a rundown vacant home with a condominium complex. This legislation encourages the NRZ volunteers of his community to continue planning a village district along their commercial corridor, void of outside pressure and deterrence.

Mr. Ianniello asserts that this bill attracts talented volunteers to the NRZ as it eliminates the threat of financial loss and legal burden.

Scott Burns, Black Rock NRZ; Submitted testimony in support of this proposal. Mr. Burns contends this proposed legislation will empower residents to contest developers and business owners as it removes the effects of legal accountability. Mr. Burns highlights the success of the Black Rock NRZ and emphasizes the benefits of receiving legal council and protection through their local attorney. Furthermore, the insurance of indemnification is vital to the success of Bridgeport in strengthening their urban areas.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Taylor Hyde

Date: 3/21/18