

# Planning and Development Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1009

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE OFFICE  
**Title:** OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT RELATED STATUTES.

**Vote Date:** 3/25/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/15/2019

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

**Introduced by:**

Planning and Development Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill makes minor and technical changes to the statutes of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). They have requested that these changes be made and describe them as updating and streamlining a number of areas that they oversee.

The changes include:

- altered reporting requirements for special taxing districts: only requiring a report from the district clerk to the town clerk when certain changes are made instead of annually, and annually reporting certain financial data to OPM for municipal aid calculations, which is the same reporting requirement that tax collectors have
- clarifying qualifications for the additional veterans' exemption in order to make the treatment of veterans with a 100% disability rating consistent and prevent them from losing the benefit due to additional income (i.e., Social Security), and making this exemption portable
- a technical change concerning the Renter's Rebate, replacing Commissioner of Housing with Secretary of OPM to conform to current practice
- the elimination of an extension to apply for the Renter's Rebate after the initial 6 month period, which they say will free up \$200-300 thousand typically held to cover potential extensions, increase benefits to those who apply during the standard 6 months, and smooth administration
- the requirement of advisory statements from OPM to other state agencies for the sake of meaningfully reporting on conformity with the State Plan of Conservation and

Development and addressing inter-agency concerns in advance of the early public scoping process of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

- expanding the Neglected Cemetery Fund to include all neglected cemeteries, as these are typically historic burial places

The substitute language makes additional minor changes: to conform to an OPM reporting deadline, correct the title of the district official doing the reporting, and allow for the Neglected Cemetery funding to be used for repairing and restoring memorial stones in addition to straightening.

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

[Jonathan A. Harris](#)  
[Undersecretary, Intergovernmental Policy and Planning](#)  
[Office of Policy and Management \(OPM\)](#)

He wrote in further detail of the changes being made (see above for an overview). This includes whether or not changing a given section will generally create a financial burden on municipalities: The reporting requirements will not, the additional veterans benefit is a municipal option for them to determine, and the portability of this tax relief option could be a requirement for a municipality to pick up the liability originally granted by another, but the overall impact would be negligible.

The new mandatory interagency advisory statements relating to the State Plan of Conservation and Development and the CEPA are intended to make OPM's report on the conformity of state actions with the Plan accurate, which they say is not currently possible with agencies making their own determinations without advisement from OPM.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None expressed aside from OPM, see above.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**Reported by: Edward Waters**

**Date: 4/1/2019**