

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1128

AN ACT AMENDING A CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE LAND IN THE

Title: TOWN OF FARMINGTON.

Vote Date: 5/13/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 4/29/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would amend a previous statute to allow the Town of Farmington to purchase said parcel at the appraised market price.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Melissa McCaw, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management: OPM refers to the DOT on this bill.

Joe Giuliatti, Commissioner, Department of Transportation: The DOT recommends the repeal of this conveyance in lieu of this amended conveyance language. The revised language is unnecessary because the Department can sell the property to the municipality pursuant to CGS 13a-80 and CGS 3-14b.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

The Town of Farmington: The Town of Farmington supports this bill and speaks to the importance of the Farmington Town Center. However, the town requests amended language that would allow the DOT and the Town of Farmington to negotiate what the market price of the parcel is.

Kathleen Blonksi, Town Manager, Town of Farmington: Blonksi supports this bill with the same amended language as described in the Town of Farmington's testimony.

Nancy Nickerson, Town Council Chair, Town of Farmington: Nickerson supports this bill as acquiring this parcel would help the Town of Farmington continue to revitalize the Farmington Town Center.

Eric Hammerling, Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA): The CFPA is neutral on this bill, however they have suggestions regarding all conveyance bills. First they recommend that all conveyances go through the State Properties Review Board and any other administrative steps in place currently or in the future. Second, they recommend that the intended use for the conveyed land be disclosed with its appraised value. Lastly, they have concerns with transferring state assets of significant appraised value out of public ownership without a clearly articulated benefit to the state.

Portia Corbett, President, Farmington Historical Society: Corbett supports this bill with aforementioned amendments so that the Town of Farmington can purchase this parcel at a fair market price. It is essential that the town regain control of this parcel so they can conserve the historic structures along the Route 4 corridor dating back to The Freedom Trail, The Amistad, The Underground Railroad and more.

John Bombara, Farmington: Bombara strongly supports this bill as it will allow the Town of Farmington to purchase said parcel at a fair market value.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Garnet McLaughlin, Assistant Clerk Date: 5/15/19