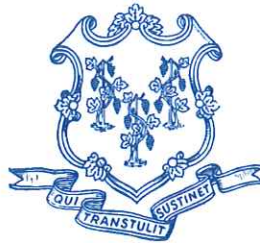


SENATOR CATHY OSTEN

Nineteenth District

Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. 860-240-0579
Toll-free 1-800-842-1420
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Osten



State of Connecticut
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Planning and Development Committee
February 13, 2019
LOB 2D 11:15AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 522
An Act Concerning Alternate Members of Planning Commissions

Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 522, *An Act Concerning Alternate Members of Planning Commissions*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

Section 8-19a of the General Statutes should be amended to permit a member of a local Zoning Board of Appeals to serve as an alternate member of a Planning Commission. I believe this is a simple correction that was brought to my attention by a constituent who was elected as a member of his town's Zoning Board of Appeals as well as an alternate on the Planning Commission. After learning that he could not serve on both, he resigned from the Planning Commission. This constituent points out that there is no prohibition in the General Statutes that prohibits a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals from serving as an alternate member of the Planning Commission. In fact, an individual in his town that serves as a full member on both panels. The constituent surmises that this discrepancy may have stemmed from the deletion of the prohibition for full members, but in the drafting, a previous legislature inadvertently overlooked that same prohibition for alternates.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 522. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.