OFA Bill Analysis

HB 7416

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF WAYS TO ENCOURAGE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE CONNECTICUT REGIONAL MARKET IN HARTFORD.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the agriculture commissioner, jointly with the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) executive director, to study ways to encourage renovating and expanding the Connecticut Regional Market in Hartford.

Under the bill, the study must include the following:

1. using bond funds authorized for CRDA to expand market agricultural users,
2. attracting private capital for growing agriculture in the state,
3. improving the market’s infrastructure and buildings,
4. expanding the market’s retail and wholesale space, and
5. reestablishing the Marketing Authority as an advisory council to CRDA for operating and growing the market.

The commissioner must, by February 1, 2020, submit a report on the study and any policy and legislative changes needed to accomplish the study’s recommendations to the Commerce; Environment; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Planning and Development committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Hartford Regional Market
PA 18-154 (§ 10) transferred the parcel of land containing the Hartford Regional Market to CRDA. The act required CRDA and the agriculture department to enter into an agreement concerning the market.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/30/2019)