OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 548

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the chief executive officers of certain large municipalities to establish in each neighborhood a community investment board and appoint members who may include residents, business owners, religious leaders, community development corporation representatives, and community group representatives. It authorizes these municipalities to spend a portion of their select payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and municipal revenue sharing grants on priorities identified by these boards (see BACKGROUND).

By January 1, 2021, the bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to create and maintain a website allowing residents and organizations to submit proposed solutions to problems specific to urban areas. If the OPM secretary or her designee deems a submitted proposal viable, the secretary must identify a municipality or neighborhood in which to implement the proposal as a pilot program. The secretary must monitor the pilot program's implementation and assess its results. OPM must provide a financial award, within available appropriations, to each resident or organization whose proposal becomes the basis of a pilot program that the secretary or her designee deems successful.

The bill also establishes a task force to study (1) programs for which nonprofit providers use state funding and (2) state agency requirements applicable to nonprofit providers and compliance with such requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the community investment board provisions are effective October 1, 2019, and October 1, 2022 (for
the provisions concerning municipal revenue sharing grants).

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT BOARDS**

The requirement to establish community investment boards in each neighborhood applies to any municipality with a population of over 60,000 according to the 2010 Census but with an area of no more than 30 square miles. Board members are selected by the municipality’s chief executive officer. If a neighborhood revitalization zone (NRZ) has been established in a neighborhood, the chief executive officer must designate the associated NRZ planning committee to serve as the neighborhood’s community investment board (see BACKGROUND).

Municipalities with community investment boards may choose to spend their municipal revenue sharing and select PILOT grants such that:

1. 35% of each grant is spent on priorities identified by the community investment boards,

2. 35% of each grant is spent on priorities identified by the municipality’s legislative body, and

3. 30% of each grant is spent on priorities jointly agreed upon by the boards and legislative body.

**TASK FORCE ON STATE-FUNDED NONPROFIT PROVIDERS**

Under the bill, the task force consists of 12 members, two each appointed by the top six legislative leaders. Legislators may be appointed as members. Appointments must be made by July 31, 2019. The appointing authority fills any vacancy.

The bill requires the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker to select the task force's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the first task force meeting by August 30, 2019. The bill requires the Planning and Development Committee's administrative staff to serve as the task force's staff.
The bill requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Planning and Development Committee by January 1, 2010. The task force terminates when it submits its report or on that date, whichever is later.

BACKGROUND

Select PILOT and Municipal Revenue Sharing Grants

Select PILOT grants are supplemental PILOT payments for specific types of PILOT-eligible property. Select PILOT grant amounts are calculated based on a municipality's mill rate and the percentage of tax-exempt property on its 2012 grand list.

Beginning in FY 20, municipal revenue sharing grant amounts will be calculated based on a formula that takes into account each municipality's real and personal property mill rate and whether the municipality complies with the statutory municipal spending cap.

NRZs

The state's NRZ program helps neighborhood residents and businesses develop and implement plans to revitalize economically- and socially-distressed neighborhoods. NRZs are municipally designated.

NRZ planning committees are responsible for preparing a strategic plan for revitalizing the neighborhood (CGS § 7-601). NRZ committees are established after a municipality adopts the planning committee's strategic plan in order to implement it (CGS § 7-602). Both NRZ committee types must reflect the neighborhood’s composition and include tenants and property owners, community organizations, and representatives of neighborhood businesses or businesses that own property in the neighborhood.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 20 Nay 1 (03/29/2019)