Bill No.: HB-7416
AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF WAYS TO ENCOURAGE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE CONNECTICUT REGIONAL MARKET IN HARTFORD.

Vote Date: 4/30/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 4/26/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
In an effort to encourage the renovation and expansion of the Connecticut Regional Market in Hartford this bill requires the agriculture commissioner and Capital Region Development Authority executive director to study ways of accomplishing said goal.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Capital Region Development Authority, Executive Director, Michael W. Freimuth
Mr. Freimuth testified that this bill would create a roadmap on how his department would proceed in their work towards renovating and expanding the Connecticut Regional Market in Hartford. It would identify the strengths and weaknesses of the market, what type of industry trends to capitalize on, what new products and agricultural operations are critical to nurture, what legislative changes will be necessary to optimize these trends opportunities, and how to use the facility to address food and nutrition issues in the City of Hartford.

Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association, Executive Director, Susan Pronovost
Ms. Pronovost supports this bill as many CGGA members participate and depend upon the Regional Market in Hartford to sell their products for at least part of the growing season. Her testimony notes the growth potential in the Regional Market and her belief that it can be utilized as a central hub to network with other food aggregation and processing facilities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:
None provided.