Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7417
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE LAND IN THE CITY OF WATERBURY.
Vote Date: 5/13/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 4/29/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill requires the DOT to convey a parcel to the city of Waterbury in exchange for the administrative costs of a conveyance. The city of Waterbury is to use the land solely for a community garden.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Joe Giulietti, Commissioner, Department of Transportation (DOT): The DOT opposes this bill. The property was purchased with federal funding and if it is transferred or sold the State must reimburse the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). If the sale is for less than a fair market value the State will have to obtain funding to reimburse FHWA.

Melissa McCaw, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management (OPM): OPM opposes this bill as written for the same reasons stated in the testimony of Commissioner Joe Giuletti.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

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.
NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:
None Expressed

Reported by: Garnet McLaughlin, Assistant Clerk  Date: 5/22/19