Bill No.: HB-7423  
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF BEACON FALLS.
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 would require DOT to convey at no cost a 0.125 acre parcel to the Town of Beacon Falls for the purpose of relocating its historic Rimmon Schoolhouse, subject to SPRB approval. Under the bill, the town must pay for the Class A-2 horizontal survey prior to the conveyance. If the town does not use the parcel for such use, or sells or leases any portion of the property, it reverts back to the state.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:  
Joe Giulietti, Commissioner, Department of Transportation: The DOT opposes this section. The property in question has not been approved for release. In addition, there are utility cabinets on the site as well a drainage system that traverses the parcel. If it is determined that the property is available for sale, this legislation is not necessary as the Department can sell the property to the municipality pursuant to CGS 13a-80 and CGS 3-14b. If the legislation moves forward, the Department recommends an amendment to require that the property be sold for fair market value and the proceeds be deposited in the State Transportation Fund.

Melissa McCaw, Secretary, The State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management: OPM defers to the DOT on this bill; see also DOT’s testimony. The DOT opposes this section.

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association: The CFPA would recommend that all conveyances follow the process of going through the State Properties Review Board and any other administrative steps that are currently in place or
developed in the future. These functions provide valuable oversight, consistency, and transparency. Additionally, we recommend that the intended use for the conveyed land be disclosed along with its assessed or appraised value. Transparency in this process protects the state’s assets and the citizens who may be impacted in a particular community. Finally, while it is not our core mission, we do have serious 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 SUPPORT:**

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council:
We recommend that all proposed conveyances be subject to review by the SPRB to “ensure that transactions are done in a prudent, business-like manner, that costs are reasonable, and that proposals are in compliance with State laws, regulations and procedures”.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

Reported by: Nicholas Rogers
Committee Clerk  Date: 5/22/19