



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 444

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 605

Senate, April 14, 2021

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. HASKELL of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PORT AUTHORITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 15-31a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) The powers of the authority shall be vested in and exercised by a
5 board of directors, which shall consist of fifteen voting members as
6 follows: (1) The State Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee, the
7 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the
8 commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Transportation, or the
9 commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Economic and
10 Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, and the
11 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's
12 designee, all of whom shall serve ex officio; (2) one appointed by the
13 speaker of the House of Representatives for a term of four years; (3) one
14 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives for a
15 term of two years; (4) one appointed by the minority leader of the House

16 of Representatives for a term of two years; (5) one appointed by the
17 president pro tempore of the Senate for a term of four years; (6) one
18 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate for a term of two years;
19 (7) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate for a term of four
20 years; and (8) four appointed by the Governor, two for a term of four
21 years and two for a term of two years, one of whom shall represent a
22 port located in the town of New Haven, New London or Bridgeport and
23 one of whom shall represent a port not located in the town of New
24 Haven, New London or Bridgeport. Thereafter, said members of the
25 General Assembly and the Governor shall appoint members of the
26 board to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member
27 so appointed shall hold office for a period of four years from the first
28 day of July in the year of his or her appointment. Appointed members
29 shall include: (A) Individuals who have experience and expertise in one
30 or more of the following areas: (i) International trade; (ii) marine
31 transportation; (iii) finance; or (iv) economic development; (B) one
32 member or employee of a local port authority; (C) one elected or
33 appointed municipal official from a coastal municipality with a
34 population not greater than one hundred thousand; and (D) one elected
35 or appointed municipal official from a coastal community with a
36 population not greater than fifty thousand. The board of directors shall
37 select the chairperson from among the members of the board, who shall
38 serve for a term of two years. The board of directors shall select a vice-
39 chairperson from among its members and such other officers as it deems
40 necessary.

41 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 15-13c of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
43 *passage*):

44 (a) There is created the Connecticut Pilot Commission, within the
45 [Connecticut Port Authority,] Department of Transportation for
46 administrative purposes only, [the Connecticut Pilot Commission] to
47 assist and advise the [authority] Connecticut Port Authority on matters
48 relating to the licensure of pilots, the safe conduct of vessels and the
49 protection of the ports and waters of the state, including the waters of

50 Long Island Sound.

51 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 1, 2022, the
52 executive director of the Connecticut Port Authority shall submit a plan
53 to ensure a transparent and equitable process for selecting and
54 disbursing grants through the program known as the Small Harbor
55 Improvement Projects Program. The executive director shall submit
56 such plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
57 having cognizance of matters relating to transportation in accordance
58 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	15-31a(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	15-13c(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill transfers, for administrative purposes only, the Connecticut Pilot Commission from the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and results in no fiscal impact. In accordance with CGS Sec. 15-13c, members of the commission receive no compensation for the performance of their duties.

The bill also requires the CPA to submit a plan to the Transportation Committee regarding the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program, which does not have a fiscal impact because this is within the authority's current expertise.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 605*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PORT AUTHORITY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes related to the Connecticut Port Authority.

It requires two of the governor's four appointments to the authority's 15-member board of directors to represent certain interests. Specifically, one must represent a port in New Haven, New London, or Bridgeport and another must represent a port located in a town other than those three. By law, two of the governor's appointments serve for two-year terms and two for four-year terms. The bill does not specify which of the governor's four appointments that its requirements apply to.

The bill also moves the Connecticut Pilot Commission from being within the Port Authority to the Department of Transportation. This is for administrative purposes only, as is the case under existing law. By law, the commission advises the authority on marine pilot licensure, the safe conduct of vessels, and the protection of ports and waters in Connecticut.

Finally, by January 1, 2022, the Port Authority's executive director must submit a plan to the Transportation Committee on ensuring a transparent and equitable process for selecting and disbursing grants through the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Connecticut Port Authority***

The Connecticut Port Authority is a quasi-public agency charged

with marketing and developing the state’s ports and maritime economy. Specifically, its purpose is to (1) coordinate port development, focusing on private and public investment; (2) work with state, local, and private entities to maximize the economic potential of the state’s ports and harbors; (3) support and enhance the state’s maritime economy; and (4) coordinate the state’s maritime policy (CGS § 15-31a et seq.).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/26/2021)