

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1111

AN ACT AMENDING A CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE LAND IN THE

Title: TOWN OF FAIRFIELD.

Vote Date: 5/19/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 5/14/2021

File No.: 768

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Sponsors of the Bill:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

Reasons for Bill:

To amend a prior conveyance of a parcel of state land in the town of Fairfield to the town of Fairfield to change the purpose and permit the sale or lease of the parcel.

Response from Administration/Agency:

Joseph Giulietti, Commissioner, Department of Transportation:

The Department opposes the bill as written and asks that it be amended to require conveyance at a cost equal to the fair market value of the property, rather than to the administrative costs.

Senator Tony Hwang, Connecticut General Assembly:

This bill will allow the municipal leaders of Fairfield to create housing opportunities and foster economic development. Fairfield is eager to recover from the economic devastation resulting from the pandemic; Sen. Hwang is requesting that the town will be allowed to facilitate future development initiatives with local government input that is consistent with that goal.

Nature and Sources of Support:

Mark Barnhart, Director of Community & Economic Development, Town of Fairfield:

The Town of Fairfield is seeking a modification to Special Act 01-6, through which they acquired title to former State property at 488 Tunxis Hill Road, to allow the sale or lease of the property to spur neighborhood revitalization efforts and to facilitate redevelopment. The parcel comprises less than a third of an acre, and is improved with a single-story, 9800sf building which had once been used by the Town's Department of Public Works for storage but is now a dilapidated eyesore which cannot serve its original purpose. Removing this

restriction would enable redevelopment to produce tax revenues to the Town and sales revenues to the State and address more pressing community needs, including housing.

Nature and Sources of Opposition:

None expressed.

Reported by: Dallas Emerle

Date: 5-19-21