
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 119

AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE RESILIENCY FUNDS AND PROJECTS.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the state treasurer to (1) invest municipal Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Funds and (2) adopt regulations to do so. It subjects the treasurer's investments to the same oversight and requirements that the law establishes for other treasurer-administered trust funds.

By law, a municipality may establish a Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Fund to pay for property losses, capital projects, and studies related to climate change mitigation. The municipality's budget-making authority may direct the municipal treasurer to invest the reserve funds in specified ways. Under the bill, the municipal treasurer may also invest the reserve fund in any trust fund the state treasurer administers, holds, or invests.

The bill also requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to maximize the state's receipt of federal funds designated for state and municipal climate change resiliency projects, including coastal resiliency projects. Under the bill, this maximization includes (1) identifying federal funds; (2) applying for or requesting funds on the state's or a municipality's behalf; and (3) helping municipalities apply for federal funds, including notifying them of their eligibility.

Beginning by January 1, 2023, the bill requires the DEEP commissioner to report biennially to the Environment Committee on her maximization efforts. The report must include federal funds identified, applications or requests for funding that DEEP or municipalities submitted, funds received, projects funded (including

those partially funded), and recommendations for the state and municipalities to maximize receiving federal funds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 1 (03/04/2022)