

**Commerce Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: SB-113

AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR A HANDICAP
ACCESSIBLE PLATFORM AT THE WATERBURY STOP OF THE NAUGATUCK

Title: RAIL LINE.

Vote Date: 3/22/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and Bonding

PH Date: 3/1/2022

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill authorizes the State Bond Commission to issue bonds not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of providing a grant-in-aid to the Naugatuck Railroad for the design and construction of a handicap accessible platform at the Waterbury stop of the Naugatuck rail line.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rep Ron Napoli, CT General Assembly, 73rd District: He offered testimony in favor of this legislation. This project would assist people who are disabled from the Waterbury area with easier access to the rail line.

Mr. Carmen Romeo, President, Fascia's Chocolates: The Naugatuck Railroad operates 19 miles of track from Waterbury to the center of Torrington out of their station in Thomaston. The Railroad Museum of New England is the nonprofit entity that oversees the entire operation which has been a tourist attraction for decades. In 2015 Fascia's Chocolates the Railroad created a platform at Fascia's when our properties meet and began running excursions where people could now have a destination on their scenic tours. We experience the frustration of handicap passengers who board the train but cannot get off. We don't know

how many parties do not book excursions on the railroad due to the inability to get off the train at the destination. From a tourism perspective, adding and promoting this capability can be a major draw to a unique experience.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

Reported by: Richard Ferrari

Date: 3/30/22