

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-218

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION.

Vote Date: 3/22/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/1/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to provide technical revisions to the Abandoned Brownfield Cleanup Program (ABC) and the Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization Program (BRRP). These revisions would encourage participation in the program and support lessees.

The JFS language would add a requirement that the lessee acquire the brownfield site within two years of acceptance into the program.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

David Lehman, Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development, and Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, stated their mutual support of this bill, on the grounds that it would improve the potential of developers taking on and redeveloping brownfield sites. They recommended a change, in the form of adding a requirement to acquire sites within 2 years of acceptance into ABC/BRRP, which is reflected in the JFS language.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Joseph Violette, Director of Public Policy & Economic Development, Waterbury Regional Chamber, testified in support of this bill, stating that it would help the Waterbury region's municipalities address their brownfields. She stated that this bill provides better management of brownfield programs and makes them stronger and more robust.

Ann M. Catino, Esq., and Gary B. O'Connor, Esq., Co-Chairs, Brownfield Working Group, submitted testimony in support of this bill, stating that it would make necessary changes and programs to make the state's brownfield programs more robust and stronger. They further stated that this bill closes existing loopholes, by requiring an eligible party to enter the voluntary cleanup program within six months of taking title to the eligible property. They also proposed a change, that such applicants take title within two years of entry into the program, which is reflected in the JFS language.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Cameron Clarke

Date: 3/31/2022