

Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-489

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE LAND

Title: IN THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE.

Vote Date: 4/13/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 4/12/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would authorize the conveyance of a parcel of state land in the town of Cheshire for the purpose of constructing a building to house the Chesprocott Health District.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Liz Normand, Chairman, Chesprocott Health District: The health district has been seeking a new location to house its facilities since 2014. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the health district was preparing to relocate but decided to pause the move because of the urgent situation the pandemic presented. The current facility is small and was overwhelmed during the pandemic. A new building would allow the staff to operate more efficiently.

Maura Esposito, Director of Health, Chesprocott Health District: In the past decade, the health district has improved the services it provides to the residents of Cheshire, Prospect, and Wolcott. One service the health district provided during the COVID-19 pandemic was the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE). Without adequate space at the current location, the conference room was converted into an area for PPE storage. This highlighted the need for a larger facility with existing storage space.

Maria Benvenuto, Board of Directors, Chesprocott Health District: The Board of Directors for the health district supports the construction of a new facility that is centrally located for the communities it serves. Residents of these communities will be able to best access a centrally located facility to receive services such as vaccination for COVID-19.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA): CFPA submitted testimony in opposition to this bill. CFPA is opposed to this bill because of an absence of an opportunity to review the conveyance applications. They recommended that a number of criteria should be taken into account before a land conveyance is considered.

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC): CLCC submitted testimony in opposition to this bill. CLCC opposes this bill due to what they cite is a general lack of detail. They believe each bill should include details as to what the land conveyed will be used for. They also believe that information should be publicly available as to why certain state lands are sold at fair market value or only for administrative costs. In addition, information should also be available to the public concerning right of reversion clauses.

Reported by: Glenn Prushinski

Date: 4/13/2022