
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 323

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL TREE REMOVAL ACCOUNT.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the “municipal tree removal account” as a separate, nonlapsing account in the General Fund, but does not specify its funding. The bill requires the energy and environmental protection commissioner to use it to fund municipal grants for the removal of dead, dying, and hazardous trees, limbs, and branches from municipal property and roads.

The commissioner must establish the grant application process, eligibility criteria, and a formula for determining grant awards. The bill does not establish a deadline for the commissioner to do so, but it requires her to implement policies and procedures while in the process of adopting them in regulations. The commissioner must publish notice of her intention to adopt regulations on the eRegulations System within 20 days after implementing the policies and procedures.

Under the bill, “municipalities” are towns, cities, boroughs, consolidated towns and cities, and consolidated towns and boroughs. “Municipal roads” are public highways, roads, streets, avenues, alleys, driveways, parkways, or places, under municipal control, that are dedicated, appropriated, or opened to public travel. By law, municipal tree wardens generally have exclusive control over trees located in whole or in part on or above public roads; tree wardens or park commissioners control trees on or above public grounds (CGS § 23-59).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/18/2022)