
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 120

AN ACT REQUIRING THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO COMPLY WITH THE CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT FOR ANY HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND LANDMARKS UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S CONTROL.

SUMMARY

The Connecticut Environmental Protection Act permits any person, corporation, organization, or other legal entity to sue in Superior Court or intervene in administrative proceedings to protect the public trust in the air, water, or other state natural resources from unreasonable pollution, impairment, or destruction. It also protects certain historic properties (e.g., those listed as individual units on the National Register of Historic Places) from unreasonable destruction in this same way (CGS §§ 22a-14 to 22a-20).

This bill expands the act's historic property protection by applying it to certain properties under the Connecticut Airport Authority's (CAA) care, custody, and control. Specifically, it applies to properties with structures or landmarks deemed historic by a historical society of any host municipality for CAA's facilities.

By law, unlike interventions aimed at preventing environmental harm, a party intervening to prevent a historic property's unreasonable destruction is liable for any costs if it cannot make a prima facie showing that the action will, or likely will, destroy the property. The bill correspondingly applies this liability to those who sue or intervene concerning CAA properties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

SB 121, favorably reported by the Environment Committee, requires CAA to conduct environmental impact evaluations for property acquisitions and expansions of property under its care, custody, or control.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/03/2023)