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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 1042

#### ***AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS TO CONNECTICUT BROWNFIELD LAND BANKS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill expands the Remedial Action and Redevelopment Municipal Grant Program's scope to include grants for Connecticut brownfield land bank (CBLB) operational expenses. It authorizes the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to award capacity-building grants of up to \$50,000 from the program for operational expenses to any CBLB that (1) matches the funding award and (2) has entered into land banking agreements with at least two municipalities that are parties to the agreement.

Under the bill, a CBLB may apply to DECD, in a way the commissioner determines, for a capacity-building grant of any amount the CBLB specifies, up to the maximum amount. The CBLB must include any information the commissioner needs to determine whether to award the grant in whole or in part, including information to verify that the CBLB has sufficient matching funds and has entered into at least one land banking agreement as required.

The bill also makes numerous conforming changes (§§ 2-5).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Remedial Action and Redevelopment Municipal Grant Program***

Under current law, DECD's Remedial Action and Redevelopment Municipal Grant Program provides grants of up to \$4 million to municipalities, CBLBs, and economic development agencies for eligible brownfield remediation or assessment projects and administrative

expenses of up to 5% of the grant awarded.

***Connecticut Brownfield Land Banks***

The law authorizes DECD to certify Connecticut non-stock corporations as CBLBs. They can be established to, among other things, (1) acquire, retain, remediate, and sell brownfields to benefit municipalities and (2) educate government officials, community leaders, economic development agencies, and nonprofit organizations on best practices for redeveloping brownfields (CGS §§ 32-771 & -773).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 8 (03/09/2023)