



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 145

January Session, 2023

Senate Bill No. 965

Senate, March 21, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS OR DEAD TREES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

4 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of
5 subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at his or her discretion, may
6 authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in subparagraphs
7 (T) to ~~[(X)]~~ (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this
8 section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital improvement
9 plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may require certification
10 from the municipality that such municipality is taking steps to amend
11 its local capital improvement plan to include such project.

12 (B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
13 for the period commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, the

14 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any
 15 project listed in subparagraph (Y) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
 16 this section from funds appropriated for such projects pursuant to
 17 section 2 of this act.

18 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The sum of fifteen million dollars is
 19 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management from the General
 20 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for the purpose of
 21 depositing such funds in the Local Capital Improvement Fund to
 22 provide local improvement project grants for projects listed in
 23 subparagraph (Y) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 7-536 of
 24 the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	7-536(e)(3)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	Local Capital Improvement Fund - Cost/Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Cost	15,000,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill appropriates \$15 million from the General Fund in FY 24. This results in a cost to the General Fund and a revenue gain to the Local Capital Improvement Fund. Any grants awarded under the expanded reimbursement program would result in a cost to the Local Capital Improvement Fund, not to exceed a total of \$15 million prior to June 30, 2025.

To the extent municipalities seek and are granted reimbursements for eligible projects as specified within the bill during FY 24 and FY 25, successful recipient municipalities would gain revenues up to a combined total of \$15 million prior to June 30, 2025.

The Out Years

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 965*****AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS OR DEAD TREES BY MUNICIPALITIES.*****SUMMARY**

By law, the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP), administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), reimburses municipalities for the cost of eligible local capital improvement projects, including hazardous tree removal or trimming for nonutility related hazardous branches, limbs, and trees on municipal property or in a municipal right-of-way.

OPM distributes LoCIP funds to municipalities based on a statutory formula. In addition to the distribution, this bill requires OPM, for FYs 24 and 25, to authorize expense reimbursements for tree removal or trimming projects from \$15 million it appropriates from the General Fund in FY 24 to OPM for deposit into the Local Capital Improvement Fund for this purpose.

Existing law generally requires LoCIP applications to include a certification that the project for which the municipality requests reimbursement is consistent with its local capital improvement plan. The bill allows the OPM secretary, for any fiscal year, to (1) authorize reimbursement for these tree removal or trimming projects before the municipality has added the project to its local capital improvement plan and (2) require the municipality to certify that it is taking steps to amend its plan to include the project. Under current law, this same exception applies to projects such as establishing bikeways and greenways, land acquisition for public uses, and certain technology upgrades.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/03/2023)