

# Planning and Development Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6647

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND

**Title:** DEVELOPMENT.

**Vote Date:** 3/8/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/15/2023

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee  
Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill makes changes to the 2025-2030 State Plan of Conservation and Development. These changes include but are not limited to:

- eliminates numerous statutory requirements concerning matters that the POCD must address
- gives OPM more time to work on draft plan by pushing out interim deadlines; eliminates the requirement that OPM hold public hearings on the plan and instead allows OPM to decide how to solicit public feedback
- gives OPM 6, rather than 3, months to revise the draft plan
- instead of requiring legislative approval for the plan to take effect, allows the plan to take effect if it hasn't been approved or rejected within 120 days (4 months) after submission

The purpose of this bill is to set up the state plan for Conservation and Development for success, as it should reflect the consensus vision for the future of the state.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[OPM, Undersecretary, Martin Heft](#)

Notes that subsequent changes may be coming, but this bill makes changes necessary to let OPM start planning for the next revision

Additional detailed comments on changes can be found in [full testimony](#)

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **[Commission on Connecticut's Development & Future's Municipal Statutory Plan Process Working Group, Member, John Board](#)**

Under our working group recommendations, we shorten both the public engagement period and the legislative review periods

A vote on approving or denying a plan would make more sense if extended a full six (6) or seven (7) months to ensure that the Assembly can review any proposed C&D plan, and enables your leadership teams flexibility on scheduling votes like this and those similar. John Board recognizes he was in the minority on this point

Suggested adding language to the growth management principles from the group's report about the "fiscal impact of land use"

### **[Rivers Alliance of CT, Executive Director, Alicea Charamut](#)**

Provided testimony in support of HB 6647. The main focus of their testimony was to outline the environmental implications of the State Plan of Conservation and Development, and the importance of preparing Connecticut for the future challenges climate change and interference may pose.

### **[NECCOG, Executive Director, John Filchak](#)**

They suggest two additions to Section 1(a) of the bill as part of the proposed new language. The first is that the plan "consider economic and environmental resiliency; especially as it relates to climate change" and the second that the plan consider "equity in all policies and programs.

### **[COST, Executive Director, Betsy Gara](#)**

Wants language limiting high density developments on such environmentally sensitive lands to protect water resources and aquatic ecosystems; supports NEECOG's recommendation to add language to "consider economic and environmental resiliency; especially as it relates to climate change"

### **[CCAPA, Government Relations Officer, John Guskowski](#)**

Those recommendations (CCDF) focus on conducting a better planning process, increased reliance on data, inclusion of measurable objectives, and potential new mechanisms for implementation.

The changes reflect the CCDF recommendations to conduct a more participatory and inclusive planning process. Pushing out initial drafts and publication of a draft for public

comment will provide additional time to conduct early outreach with agencies, the Continuing Committee on State Planning, Councils of Governments, municipalities and other stakeholders.

**HBRA-CT, CEO, Jim Perras**

Does not support change that allows for automatic approval of plan if legislature doesn't act within 4 months

Otherwise supports the bill (with proposed amendment) and recognizes its importance.

**WestCOG, Executive Director, Francis Pickering**

Commented that the bill appears to allow OPM to sidestep legislature, with automatic approval provision— unclear if this was intended

**Center for Housing Opportunity, Director, Aicha Woods**

Bill No 6647 strengthens the coordination of regional planning for the POCD process

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Matthew Lombardo**

**Date: 3/14/23**