



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 196

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 227

Senate, April 2, 2024

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. RAHMAN of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL INTERNET WEB SITES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the
 2 provisions of any municipal charter, special act or home rule ordinance,
 3 not later than July 1, 2026, each municipality shall (1) register a ".gov"
 4 Internet top-level domain for such municipality with the Cybersecurity
 5 and Infrastructure Security Agency within the United States
 6 Department of Homeland Security, and (2) redirect any existing Internet
 7 web site addresses maintained by such municipality to such domain or
 8 discontinue the use of such addresses. On and after July 1, 2026, each
 9 municipality shall maintain an Internet web site with a ".gov" Internet
 10 top-level domain. For the purposes of this section, "municipality" has
 11 the same meaning as provided in section 7-479a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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PD 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: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires municipalities to register a ".gov" internet top-level domain and redirect any existing Internet web site addresses maintained by such municipality to the new ".gov" domain. This results in a potential cost to various municipalities in FY 25 to the extent they do not have the necessary staff to transition to a .gov domain.

Currently, 116 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities do not have a ".gov" top-level domain and would need to register a new domain with such designation. There is no registration cost for entities eligible for the ".gov" designation. There is no fiscal impact to municipalities that already use a .gov domain or have the staff necessary to complete the transition to the new domain.

For towns without the resources to complete the transition, there is a federal grant program administered by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security that assists with the transition process¹.

¹ <https://www.cisa.gov/state-and-local-cybersecurity-grant-program>

The Out Years:

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 227

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL INTERNET WEB SITES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires all municipalities, by July 1, 2026, to maintain a .gov Internet domain and register it with the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Municipalities (i.e., cities and towns) must redirect any other domains they use to the .gov domain or stop using them. The bill’s requirements apply regardless of any municipal charter, special act, or home rule ordinance that requires otherwise.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/15/2024)