



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 212

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 281

Senate, April 3, 2024

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PROPOSED FARE AND SERVICE CHANGES TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 13b-38h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) The Department of Transportation shall provide for changes in
4 fares for mass transportation by land in accordance with the provisions
5 of this section and shall not be required to conform to the procedures in
6 chapter 54.

7 (b) Prior to adopting any change in fares for mass transportation by
8 land, the department shall (1) give notice of the proposed fare change,
9 its amount and the date it is proposed to take effect by advertising, at
10 least once, in one or more newspapers having general circulation in all
11 areas of the state that may be affected by such change in fares, and (2) in
12 such notice, provide information on the time and place a public hearing
13 is to be held on such proposed change. Such notice shall be [posted]

14 provided at least fifteen days prior to such public hearing. The
 15 department shall, at least fifteen days prior to such public hearing, send
 16 a copy of such notice to the chairpersons and ranking members of the
 17 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
 18 of matters relating to transportation and [to] finance and to the
 19 Connecticut Public Transportation Council, established under section
 20 13b-212b. A public hearing on the proposed fare change shall be held at
 21 such time and place as will be convenient for public attendance.

22 (c) When the department is required to hold a public hearing
 23 regarding a proposed major service change to commuter rail service in
 24 accordance with the Federal Transit Administration Title VI Circular
 25 4702.1B, as amended from time to time, the department shall, at least
 26 fifteen days prior to such public hearing, provide notice of such public
 27 hearing to the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
 28 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 29 relating to transportation and finance and to the Connecticut Public
 30 Transportation Council.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	13b-38h

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:** None**Explanation**

The bill expands the notice requirements that the Department of Transportation must follow prior to holding certain public hearings regarding fare or major service changes. It does not have a fiscal impact because it can be accomplished through existing resources.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 281*****AN ACT CONCERNING PROPOSED FARE AND SERVICE CHANGES TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), whenever it must hold a public hearing on a proposed major service change to commuter rail service according to federal requirements (see BACKGROUND), to provide notice of the hearing to the (1) chairpersons and ranking members of the Transportation and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees and (2) Connecticut Public Transportation Council (see BACKGROUND). The department must do so at least 15 days before the hearing.

Existing law requires DOT to provide notice of public hearings related to fare changes for mass transportation by land to these legislative committee leaders. The bill additionally requires it to provide this notice (1) at least 15 days before a hearing and (2) to the Connecticut Public Transportation Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND***Connecticut Public Transportation Council***

By law, the 15-member Connecticut Public Transportation Council is charged with studying and investigating all aspects of the daily operation of commuter railroad systems and state-funded public transit services (e.g., bus transit), monitoring their performance, and recommending changes to improve their efficiency, equity, and quality. The council serves as an advocate for customers of all commuter railroad systems and state-funded public transit services (CGS §§ 13b-

212b & -212c).

Major Service Changes to Commuter Rail Service

Pursuant to federal requirements, DOT generally conducts a Service and Fare Equity (SAFE) analysis any time fare changes or major service changes are proposed to ensure that the changes do not unfairly impact minority and low-income populations (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1B). According to DOT’s Public Involvement Procedures, it conducts comprehensive community outreach to give the public opportunities to provide input and alternatives or request clarification; this may include a combination of public hearings and community-based organization meetings.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/18/2024)