

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: Senate Bill 10

Title: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE.

Vote Date: 4/3/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/28/2024

File No.: 590

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Governor Ned Lamont
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill makes adjustments to Connecticut's Fiscal Year 25 capital budget, which funds the acquisition or maintenance of fixed assets such as land, buildings, and equipment. General Obligation Bonds are used for the construction of buildings, grants and loans for housing, economic development, community care facilities, school construction grants, state parks and open space. Special Tax Obligation Bonds finance the state's portion of the cost of highway and bridge construction and maintenance.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Please visit the [Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee webpage](#) for a summary of the revisions made through substitute language.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Jeffrey Beckham, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management](#) noted that in 2023 the legislature passed a capital budget prioritizing bond allocations in areas that require the most investment, and this bill makes minor changes and adjustments to ensure sufficient resources to expand and continue those priorities. The adjustments include:

- \$15 million to the Office of Policy and Management for additional resources to the Information Technology Capital Investment Program.

- \$15.1 million to the Department of Administrative Services. This includes \$14.1 million for environmental remediation of the former Long Lane School and \$1 million for renovations and improvements required to establish a new Opportunity Center.
- \$5 million to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for additional resources to the Microgrid and Resilience program. These additional funds will be used specifically for high heat mitigation programs.
- \$500,000 to the Department of Labor for alterations, renovations, and improvements to their facility in Wethersfield.
- \$90.5 million to the University of Connecticut. The Governor is committed to continue to invest in the state's flagship state university as the UConn 2000 program winds down over the next several years. These funds will provide for infrastructure upgrades and improvements, including addressing much needed renovations at the Gant Building and startup costs for a new life science building.
- \$5 million to the Department of Corrections for renovations and improvements to the Manson Youth Institute in Cheshire.

The Governor is also recommending \$101.5 million of new authorizations in Special Tax Obligation (STO) bonds to add to \$1,530.8 million of previously approved authorizations to keep our transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair. Of the total proposed new authorizations \$100 million are for the Fix-It-First Bridge program in FY 2025 to help address deficiencies in the state's bridges and repair environmental issues. The remaining \$1.5 million will add additional funds to the Department of Transportation's Environmental Compliance authorization.

[Francis J. Evon, Jr., Major General, The Adjutant General, Military Department](#) is in support of the bill as it would allow for the acquisition of 128 acres of property adjacent to the Connecticut National Guard's primary training site at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, Connecticut. The addition of the 128 acres will not only provide much needed training and equipment space, but it will also serve as an effective buffer zone for noise, light and dust from nearby residential communities. It is important to note that other branches of the armed forces of the United States, as well as federal and state law enforcement and first responder agencies, also utilize this facility.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Ronald F. Angelo, Jr. President and Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.](#), supports the bill and requests that it be amended to include \$15,000,000 in bond funding for the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology to renovate the Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Center into a modern, technologically-advanced facility to meet the challenges facing the manufacturing industrial base. The Center will serve as the central hub for inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs; delivering technology advancement and innovative workforce impacts to the industrial base and manufacturing supply chains, as well as promoting and attracting additional advanced manufacturing economic development to the state and region.

[Jeff Shaw, Senior Public Policy Advisor, The Alliance](#) thanks the Governor and legislature for prioritizing the capital and infrastructure needs for the many nonprofit providers that provide essential services on behalf of the State through the Nonprofit Grant Program. The capital projects supported through this bond program help nonprofit providers lower administrative costs, increase efficiency, and maintain high quality services. He asserts that more funding is needed, however. Unprecedented inflation, a workforce crisis, and increasing demand for services continue to provide enormous operational and financial challenges for many community nonprofits. Many nonprofits find themselves with capital and infrastructure needs, but limited dollars available to support such projects, and no way to capitalize for infrastructure projects within their current State contracts.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Daniel Gentile](#) expressed opposition to the bill.

Reported by: Jay Snukis

Date: April 9, 2024