

Appropriations Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-373

AN ACT CONCERNING PARKS INCLUDED IN THE PASSPORT TO THE

Title: PARKS PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 4/4/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/15/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Anthony L. Nolan, 39th Dist.

Rep. Christine Conley, 40th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would include Batterson Park and Thames River Heritage Park in the Passport to the Parks Program. Currently, Batterson Park is in need of maintenance due to pollution and safety issues, and the Thames River Heritage Park requires funds for maintenance and upkeep. Being a part of the Passport to the Parks program would give these parks access to funds for said maintenance, upkeep, and program support.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Jeffrey Beckham, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management](#) – Mr. Beckham voiced that the bill created an unwieldy precedent and significant liability by giving the state the responsibility and financial liability of municipal recreation and local park management. He claimed that given the amount of CT towns, notably their thousands of municipal recreation facilities, the policy shift of state management over said local parks and recreation would not be feasible. Mr. Beckham then expressed how the state budget had already supported Hartford's Batterson park efforts, with funds still being left that could be used for direct engagement between the municipality and its preferred vendor

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Ben McSheehy

Date: 4/12/24