

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 8-1a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2024*):

4 (b) As used in this chapter and section 2 of this act:

5 (1) "Accessory apartment" means a separate dwelling unit that (A) is
6 located on the same lot as a principal dwelling unit of greater square
7 footage, (B) has cooking facilities, and (C) complies with or is otherwise
8 exempt from any applicable building code, fire code and health and
9 safety regulations;

10 (2) "Affordable accessory apartment" means an accessory apartment
11 that is subject to binding recorded deeds which contain covenants or
12 restrictions that require such accessory apartment be sold or rented at,
13 or below, prices that will preserve the unit as housing for which, for a
14 period of not less than ten years, persons and families pay thirty per cent
15 or less of income, where such income is less than or equal to eighty per
16 cent of the median income;

17 (3) "As of right" means able to be approved in accordance with the
18 terms of a zoning regulation or regulations and without requiring that
19 a public hearing be held, a variance, special permit or special exception
20 be granted or some other discretionary zoning action be taken, other
21 than a determination that a site plan is in conformance with applicable

22 zoning regulations;

23 (4) "Cottage cluster" means a grouping of at least four detached
24 housing units, or live work units, per acre that are located around a
25 common open area;

26 (5) "Live work unit" means a building or a space within a building
27 used for both commercial and residential purposes by an individual
28 residing within such building or space;

29 [(5)] (6) "Middle housing" means duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes,
30 cottage clusters and townhouses;

31 [(6)] (7) "Mixed-use development" means a development containing
32 both residential and nonresidential uses in any single building; and

33 [(7)] (8) "Townhouse" means a residential building constructed in a
34 grouping of three or more attached units, each of which shares at least
35 one common wall with an adjacent unit and has exterior walls on at least
36 two sides.

37 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section and
38 sections 3 and 4 of this act:

39 (1) "Discretionary infrastructure funding" means any grant, loan or
40 other financial assistance program administered by the state under the
41 provisions of section 4-66c, section 4-66h, sections 8-13m to 8-13x,
42 inclusive, of the general statutes, or any grant, loan, or financial
43 assistance program managed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
44 Management for the purpose of transit-oriented development, as
45 defined in section 13b-79o of the general statutes;

46 (2) "Downtown area" means a central business district or other
47 commercial neighborhood area of a municipality that serves as a center
48 of socioeconomic interaction in the municipality, characterized by a
49 cohesive core of commercial and mixed-use buildings, often
50 interspersed with civic, religious and residential buildings and public

51 spaces, that are typically arranged along a main street and intersecting
52 side streets and served by public infrastructure;

53 (3) "Middle housing development" means a residential building
54 containing not fewer than two dwelling units but not greater than nine
55 such units, including, but not limited to, townhomes, duplexes,
56 triplexes, perfect sixes and cottage clusters;

57 (4) "Perfect six" means a three-story residential building with a central
58 entrance containing two dwelling units per story;

59 (5) "Qualifying bus transit community" means any municipality that
60 has not less than one regular bus service station operating not less than
61 five days a week within a transit-oriented district adopted by such
62 municipality, provided such transit-oriented district is of reasonable
63 size, as determined by the secretary in accordance with the provisions
64 of subsection (e) of this section, and (A) includes land of such
65 municipality located within a one-half-mile radius of any such station,
66 or (B) is located within a reasonable distance, as determined by the
67 secretary, of any other transit service, a commercial corridor or a
68 downtown area of such municipality;

69 (6) "Qualifying rapid transit community" means any municipality
70 that has not less than one rapid transit station or a planned rapid transit
71 station, contained within a transit-oriented district adopted by such
72 municipality, provided such transit-oriented district is of reasonable
73 size, as determined by the secretary in accordance with subsection (e) of
74 this section, and (A) includes land of such municipality located within a
75 one-half-mile radius of any such station, or (B) is located within a
76 reasonable distance, as determined by the secretary, of any other transit
77 service, a commercial corridor or the downtown area of such
78 municipality;

79 (7) "Qualifying transit-oriented community" means any municipality
80 that is a qualifying rapid transit community or qualifying bus transit
81 community;

82 (8) "Rapid transit station" means any public transportation station
83 serving rail or rapid bus routes;

84 (9) "Regular bus service station" means any fixed location where a bus
85 will regularly stop for the loading or unloading of passengers along a
86 defined route operating on a fixed schedule;

87 (10) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
88 Management, or the secretary's designee;

89 (11) "Transit-oriented district" means a collection of parcels of land in
90 a municipality designated by such municipality and subject to zoning
91 criteria designed to encourage increased density of development,
92 including mixed-use development and concentration of discretionary
93 infrastructure funding; and

94 (12) "Zoning commission" means any zoning commission, any
95 planning commission in a municipality that has adopted a planning
96 commission but not a zoning commission, or combined planning and
97 zoning commission.

98 (b) Any qualifying transit-oriented community shall be eligible for
99 prioritized discretionary infrastructure funding. To receive such
100 funding, any such community, or any municipality that is not a
101 qualifying transit-oriented community but has adopted a resolution
102 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, shall submit an application for
103 such funding to the secretary in a form developed by the secretary. The
104 secretary shall make recommendations to the state agency responsible
105 for administering such funding and, if priority funding is permitted for
106 such funding, such agency may prioritize any qualifying transit-
107 oriented community for the receipt of such funding over any
108 municipality that is not a qualifying transit-oriented community or has
109 not adopted a resolution pursuant to subsection (c) of this section based
110 on the secretary's recommendations.

111 (c) Any municipality that is not a qualifying transit-oriented

112 community shall be eligible for discretionary infrastructure funding on
113 a priority basis pursuant to this section if the legislative body of the
114 municipality adopts a resolution stating that such municipality intends
115 to enact zoning regulations that enable such municipality to become a
116 qualifying transit-oriented community. Such municipality shall enact
117 such zoning regulations not later than eighteen months after the
118 adoption of such resolution. If such municipality does not enact such
119 regulations within eighteen months after the adoption of such
120 resolution, unless the secretary grants an extension to such municipality
121 at the secretary's discretion, such municipality shall return any
122 discretionary infrastructure funding provided to such municipality on
123 a priority basis pursuant to this section and such municipality shall be
124 ineligible for discretionary infrastructure funding on a priority basis
125 until such municipality enacts zoning regulations that enable the
126 municipality to become a qualifying transit-oriented community.
127 Nothing in this section shall be construed to make a municipality that is
128 not a qualifying transit-oriented community ineligible for discretionary
129 infrastructure funding.

130 (d) The zoning commission of the municipality shall consult with the
131 inland wetlands agency of the municipality to establish the boundaries
132 of any transit-oriented district within the municipality. If any portion of
133 any such proposed district is located in an area over which such agency
134 exercises its authority, such commission shall collaborate with such
135 agency to determine whether any portion of such proposed district shall
136 allow for the as-of-right development of middle housing and mixed-use
137 developments.

138 (e) In determining whether a transit-oriented district is of reasonable
139 size, the secretary, in consultation with the zoning commission, shall (1)
140 determine whether the area of such district is adequate to support
141 greater density of development in an equitable manner, as determined
142 by the secretary, considering the geographic characteristics of the
143 municipality; (2) consider municipal and regional housing needs; and
144 (3) not require the inclusion of the following lands in any such district:

145 (A) Special flood hazard areas designated on a flood insurance rate map
146 published by the National Flood Insurance Program, (B) wetlands, as
147 defined in section 22a-29 of the general statutes, (C) land designated for
148 use as a public park, (D) land subject to conservation or preservation
149 restrictions, as defined in section 47-42a of the general statutes, (E)
150 coastal resources, as defined in section 22a-93 of the general statutes, (F)
151 areas necessary for the protection of drinking water supplies, and (G)
152 areas designated as likely to be inundated during a thirty-year flood
153 event by the Marine Sciences Division of The University of Connecticut
154 pursuant to the division's responsibilities to conduct sea level change
155 scenarios pursuant to subsection (b) of section 25-68o of the general
156 statutes. If deemed necessary by the zoning commission to determine
157 whether a transit-oriented district is of reasonable size, such
158 commission shall consult with the inland wetlands agency of the
159 municipality and any other municipal agency deemed necessary by
160 such commission.

161 (f) Any qualifying transit-oriented community shall allow the
162 following developments as of right: (1) Middle housing developments,
163 if such development contains nine or fewer dwelling units; (2)
164 developments that contain ten or more dwelling units where not less
165 than thirty per cent of such units qualify as a set-aside development
166 pursuant to section 8-30g of the general statutes; and (3) developments
167 on land owned by (A) the municipality in which such land is located,
168 (B) the state, (C) any public housing authority, (D) any not-for-profit
169 entity, and (E) any religious organization, as defined in section 49-31k
170 of the general statutes, if such development is composed entirely of
171 units that qualify as a set-aside development pursuant to section 8-30g
172 of the general statutes and not less than fifty per cent of such units shall
173 be sold or rented at, or below, prices which will preserve the units as
174 housing for which persons and families pay thirty per cent or less of
175 their annual income, where such income is less than or equal to sixty per
176 cent of the area median income established by the United States
177 Department of Housing and Urban Development. Notwithstanding the
178 provisions of this subsection, if a proposed development is required to

179 have a public hearing in the inland wetlands agency of the municipality,
180 such proposed development must receive such public hearing prior to
181 such development's approval.

182 (g) Each qualifying transit-oriented community shall require that any
183 proposed development that contains ten or more dwelling units that are
184 not allowed as of right under subsection (f) of this section be subject to
185 (1) a deed restriction that requires, for not less than forty years after the
186 initial occupation of the proposed development, that a percentage of
187 dwelling units, as set forth in subsection (h) of this section, shall be sold
188 or rented at, or below, prices which will preserve the units as housing
189 for which persons and families that pay thirty per cent or less of their
190 annual income and where such income is less than or equal to eighty
191 per cent of the area median income established by the United States
192 Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (2) a contribution
193 agreement pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

194 (h) The percentage of deed-restricted dwelling units required
195 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section shall be
196 determined based upon sales market typologies as described in the most
197 recent Connecticut Housing Finance Authority Housing Needs
198 Assessment:

199 (1) Fifteen per cent for any municipality designated High
200 Opportunity/Heating Market;

201 (2) Fifteen per cent for any municipality designated High
202 Opportunity/Cooling Market;

203 (3) Ten per cent for any municipality designated Low
204 Opportunity/Heating Market; and

205 (4) Five per cent for any municipality designated Low
206 Opportunity/Cooling Market.

207 (i) Any qualifying transit-oriented community may establish a fund
208 into which the developer of a proposed development that is not allowed

209 as of right under subsection (f) of this section may contribute funds in
210 lieu of granting a deed restriction pursuant to subdivision (1) of
211 subsection (g) of this section. The amount and duration of such
212 contributions shall be determined by the secretary and any contribution
213 agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection shall be approved
214 by the secretary. Any municipality that establishes a fund pursuant to
215 this subsection shall utilize the proceeds of such fund solely to develop
216 affordable housing in the municipality.

217 (j) The secretary shall determine any municipality's compliance with
218 the provisions of this section. The secretary may consult with the
219 Commissioner of Housing to determine such compliance. Any
220 municipality that is not a qualifying rapid transit community or
221 qualifying bus transit community may be deemed a qualifying transit-
222 oriented community if the secretary determines that such municipality
223 has adopted a transit-oriented district that contains any rapid transit
224 station or regular bus service station and is of a reasonable size on or
225 before October 1, 2025.

226 (k) Each qualifying transit-oriented community shall be eligible for
227 additional funding pursuant to any program administered by the
228 secretary if such community implements additional zoning criteria,
229 including, but not limited to, higher density development, greater
230 affordability of housing units than is required by subsection (h) of this
231 section, the development of public land or public housing, the
232 implementation of programs to encourage homeownership
233 opportunities within such community and any additional criteria
234 determined by the secretary.

235 (l) No qualifying transit-oriented community shall adopt regulations
236 concerning any transit-oriented district that conflict with any guidelines
237 adopted by the secretary concerning parking requirements, lot size, lot
238 coverage, setback requirements, floor area ratio, height restrictions,
239 inclusionary zoning requirements, development impact fees or other
240 guidelines adopted by the secretary concerning the development of

241 housing in any such district, unless the secretary, in collaboration with
242 the qualifying transit-oriented community, approves such conflicting
243 regulations based on local factors identified by such community.

244 (m) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
245 any qualifying transit-oriented communities with one or more transit-
246 oriented districts located in priority funding areas, as defined in section
247 16a-35c of the general statutes, shall be awarded discretionary
248 infrastructure funding by the agency administering any such funding at
249 a higher priority than a qualifying transit-oriented community without
250 such district located in such funding areas.

251 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
252 interagency council on housing development to advise and assist the
253 State Responsible Growth Coordinator in reviewing regulations,
254 developing guidelines and establishing programs to support the
255 responsible growth of housing in the state.

256 (b) The council shall consist of the following regular members: (1) The
257 State Responsible Growth Coordinator; (2) the Secretary of the Office of
258 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; (3) the
259 Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the
260 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
261 commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Energy and
262 Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the
263 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (7) the
264 Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee; and
265 (8) the Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Housing Finance
266 Authority, or the chief executive officer's designee.

267 (c) In addition to the regular members set forth in subsection (b) of
268 this section, the council may consist of any ad hoc members that the
269 State Responsible Growth Coordinator determines would be necessary
270 to complete the work of the council.

271 (d) The chairperson of the council shall be the State Responsible

272 Growth Coordinator.

273 (e) The council shall convene not later than July 1, 2024, and meet not
274 less than once every six months and more often upon the call of the
275 chairperson, to:

276 (1) Review and evaluate the plans, programs, regulations and policies
277 of state or quasi-public agencies for opportunities to combine efforts and
278 resources of such agencies to increase housing development;

279 (2) Develop consistent reporting methods concerning data and
280 documentation related to housing development;

281 (3) Provide a forum to develop approaches to housing growth that
282 balance both needs for conservation and development, including the
283 need for additional housing and economic growth, the protection of
284 natural resources and the maintenance and support for existing
285 infrastructure;

286 (4) Review existing discretionary grant programs to make
287 recommendations to state or quasi-public agencies concerning the
288 adherence of such programs with the goals established in the state plan
289 of conservation and development adopted under chapter 297 of the
290 general statutes. Such recommendations shall include, but need not be
291 limited to, methods to increase the development of deed-restricted
292 housing in transit-oriented districts and middle housing, as defined in
293 section 8-1a of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

294 (5) Develop recommendations for municipalities concerning zoning
295 and land use policies designed to increase housing in such
296 municipalities. Such recommendations may include model ordinances,
297 regulations or bylaws that may be adopted by any municipality
298 pursuant to section 8-2 of the general statutes; and

299 (6) Develop guidelines concerning the adoption and development of
300 transit-oriented districts, which shall include, but need not be limited to,
301 (A) prioritizing mixed-use and mixed-income developments, (B)

302 increasing the availability of affordable housing, (C) ensuring proper
303 environmental considerations in the development of such districts, with
304 an emphasis on the analysis of any potential impacts on environmental
305 justice communities, as defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes,
306 (D) increasing ridership on mass transit systems, (E) increasing the
307 feasibility of walking, biking and utilizing other means of mobility other
308 than motor vehicle travel, (F) reducing the need for motor vehicle travel,
309 (G) maximizing developable land, (H) increasing the economic viability
310 of development projects, and (I) reducing the length of time necessary
311 to approve applications for development.

312 (f) Not later than October 1, 2025, the coordinator shall submit a
313 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
314 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
315 having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development and
316 housing, concerning the recommendations and guidelines developed by
317 the coordinator pursuant to subdivisions (5) and (6) of subsection (e) of
318 this section and shall publish such recommendations and guidelines on
319 the Internet web site of the Office of Policy and Management.

320 (g) Not later than October 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
321 coordinator shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
322 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of
323 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning
324 and development and housing, concerning the recommendations of the
325 council.

326 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) There is established an
327 account to be known as the "public water and sewer rehabilitation or
328 expansion account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account
329 within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys
330 required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account
331 shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
332 Management for the purposes of rehabilitating or expanding public
333 water and sewerage infrastructure for any transit-oriented district

334 established by a municipality pursuant to section 2 of this act. Proceeds
335 from such account may be provided to any qualifying rapid transit
336 community, a bus transit community or any owner of real property in a
337 development approved for such funding at the discretion of the
338 secretary located within a transit-oriented district.

339 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The Secretary of the Office of
340 Policy and Management may establish, within available appropriations,
341 a program to provide grants to any regional council of governments for
342 the development of projects related to public transit infrastructure,
343 bicycle infrastructure or pedestrian infrastructure.

344 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 8-169tt of the 2024 supplement to the
345 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
346 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

347 (a) As used in this section, "housing growth zone" means (1) any area
348 within a municipality in which applicable zoning regulations adopted
349 pursuant to section 8-2 are designed to facilitate substantial
350 development of new dwelling units consistent with subsection (c) of this
351 section, or (2) any transit-oriented district established by a municipality
352 pursuant to section 2 of this act. Any housing growth zone shall
353 encompass an entire development district and may include areas
354 outside such district.

355 Sec. 7. Subsection (f) of section 8-2o of the general statutes is repealed
356 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

357 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive,
358 of this section, the zoning commission or combined planning and
359 zoning commission, as applicable, of a municipality, by a two-thirds
360 vote, may initiate the process by which such municipality opts out of
361 the provisions of said subsections regarding the allowance of accessory
362 apartments, provided such commission: (1) First holds a public hearing
363 in accordance with the provisions of section 8-7d on such proposed opt-
364 out, (2) affirmatively decides to opt out of the provisions of said

365 subsections within the period of time permitted under section 8-7d, (3)
366 states [upon its] in the records of such commission the reasons for such
367 decision, and (4) publishes notice of such decision in a newspaper
368 having a substantial circulation in the municipality not later than fifteen
369 days after such decision has been rendered. Thereafter, the
370 municipality's legislative body or, in a municipality where the
371 legislative body is a town meeting, [its] such municipality's board of
372 selectmen, by a two-thirds vote, may complete the process by which
373 such municipality opts out of the provisions of subsections (a) to (d),
374 inclusive, of this section, except that, on and after January 1, 2023, no
375 municipality may opt out of the provisions of said subsections.

376 (g) Notwithstanding any prior action of the municipality to opt out
377 of the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section,
378 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, any owner of real property
379 located within a transit-oriented district, as defined in section 2 of this
380 act, who has owned real property in the municipality for not fewer than
381 three years may construct an accessory apartment as of right on such
382 real property.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	8-1a(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	8-169tt(a)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	8-2o(f)