

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1403

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

By conducting a study, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development will assess the challenges and opportunities related to cleaning up and repurposing these contaminated sites. The findings from this study, which will be submitted by February 1, 2026, will inform state lawmakers, and help guide future efforts to revitalize brownfields, improve the environment, and encourage economic development.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Paul Aresta, Executive Director, Council on Environmental Quality](#): The Council supports the proposed bill requiring the Department of Economic and Community Development to study brownfield remediation and development in the state. He highlights that reusing brownfields could reduce the need to develop undeveloped land. Additionally, the Council suggests the study should include an analysis of potential barriers and incentives for developing renewable resources like solar, fuel cells, geothermal, and wind on remediated brownfield sites.

[Matthew Hart, Executive Director, The Capitol Region Council of Governments](#): The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) supports Senate Bill No. 1351, which transitions from the Transfer Act to a release-based cleanup program. This change will drive economic growth, create jobs, ensure timely cleanup of contaminated sites, and streamline regulations. It aligns with CRCOG's goals for brownfield redevelopment, affordable housing, and economic development. The new program will also benefit CRCOG's Revolving Loan Fund by reducing remediation costs, encouraging investment, and supporting sustainable development in Connecticut. CRCOG commends DEEP and DECD for their efforts in improving environmental remediation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Duncan Markovich, Founder, Better Ways LLC](#): Environmental protection is a shared responsibility, and biomimicry, particularly through the use of industrial hemp for phytoremediation, offers cost-effective solutions for brownfield remediation in Connecticut. The writer urges Commissioner O'Keefe and the Department of Economic and Community Development to review research, including the Department of Consumer Protection's 2014 Industrial Hemp Report, and collaborate with experts, including UConn, to develop innovative solutions for brownfields.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

[Daniel O'Keefe, Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development](#): Environmental protection is a shared responsibility, and biomimicry, particularly through the use of industrial hemp for phytoremediation, offers cost-effective solutions for brownfield remediation in Connecticut. The writer urges Commissioner O'Keefe and the Department of Economic and Community Development to review research, including the Department of Consumer Protection's 2014 Industrial Hemp Report, and collaborate with experts, including UConn, to develop innovative solutions for brownfields.

Reported by: Austin Adil

Date: 3/25/2025