

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5503 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO REPORT EXCESS WASTEWATER
Title: CAPACITY.

Vote Date: 3/13/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill asks the water pollution control authority for a municipality, or for a municipality that has yet to establish one, the board of selectmen, to submit a report to the OPM Secretary. The report is being asked to include details relevant to the municipality's current wastewater capacity and note any expected projected excesses in the year ahead.

This effort, by proponents, is said to recognize Connecticut's housing shortage and disclose where challenges lie with infrastructure. Opposition for the bill commonly stated that such reporting practices are already practiced today with DEEP.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

CGA, House Majority Leader, Jason Rojas:

Rep. Rojas supports the bill and finds that mandate-collected data will help better understand the work being done by relevant agencies. He suggests a tweak in the language that would require the excess capacity information to be included in funding applications, rather than an independent annual report.

Regional Plan Association, Director, Pete Harrison:

Supports the bill and believes in its ability to improve transparency and coordination for wastewater processing capacities. He supports a centralized database and transparency overall, noting that changes could even go on to serve housing shortages/programs.

Partnership for Strong Communities, Policy Director, Sean Ghio:

Calls the bill a practical and fundamental measure, as it would locate where infrastructure can be expanded.

Central CT Construction Management, Owner, Kenneth Mita:

Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut, CEO, Jim Perras:

From a construction and homebuilders' perspective, they state that building and developing housing can't be done without first having records/information on wastewater capacity. They support improving transparency and increasing data reliability,

Calgani Real Estate, COO Broker, Jennifer DeVivo:

Larew Doyle & Associates, Senior Vice President, Jeffrey Miller:

As a broker and mortgage advisor, respectively, both preface that infrastructure uncertainties pose threats to housing development. They conclude that better information yields more informed decisions and investments.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Council of Small Towns, Executive Director, Betsy Gara:

Opposes the bill since it duplicates reporting requirements already sent to DEEP. Ms. Gara also believes municipalities shouldn't be subject to loss of critical funding if they miss the proposed OPM reporting deadline.

The Metropolitan District, Brendan Fox:

Opposes the bill's creation of another reporting requirement. Mr. Fox recommends that DEEP communicate the information to OPM as it's made available.

Anonymous 1025:

Believes that the bill compels municipalities to produce annual capacity reporting, therefore, centralizing data collection and future state leverage over towns/cities.

Cynthia Steckler:

Opposes the bill, referring to it as unfair, unethical, and undemocratic.

Reported by: Zachary Robinson and Alexandria Silvs **Date: 3/17/26**