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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 5421

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A SMALL HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ACCOUNT TO FUND DREDGING PROJECTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) to establish the “Small Harbor Improvement Projects Account” and to spend deposited or appropriated funds in it to initiate small harbor improvement projects consistent with state law.

Neither the law nor the bill defines “small harbor improvement projects.” However, under existing law, unchanged by the bill, CPA may initiate harbor improvement projects in various ways, including by preparing plans, studies, and construction for altering and improving various state, municipal, and other properties in or adjacent to state waters to improve the state economy and infrastructure (CGS § 13b-55a).

Under the bill, the following funds must be deposited into the account: (1) the proceeds of notes, bonds, or other state-issued obligations; (2) appropriated funds; and (3) any other funds required or permitted by law.

The bill authorizes the account to be used for federal and nonfederal dredging projects in the following ways:

1. to fully or partially support local and state matching requirements for these projects;
2. to cover the incremental costs associated with applicable environmental regulatory requirements or management practices, including beneficial use;
3. to cover all or part of these project costs in the absence of

adequate federal funds; and

4. to fund private maritime infrastructure projects.

Under the bill, if the account is used due to inadequate federal funding, then CPA must pursue federal reimbursement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)