



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 303

February Session, 2022

House Bill No. 5421

House of Representatives, April 5, 2022

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Connecticut Port
2 Authority shall establish an account to be known as the "small harbor
3 improvement projects account". There shall be deposited in the account:
4 (1) The proceeds of notes, bonds or other obligations issued by the state
5 for the purpose of deposit therein and used in accordance with the
6 permissible uses thereof; (2) funds appropriated by the General
7 Assembly for the purpose of deposit therein and used in accordance
8 with the permissible uses thereof; and (3) any other funds required or
9 permitted by law to be deposited in the account. The funds in said
10 account shall be expended by the authority for the purpose of initiating
11 small harbor improvement projects in accordance with section 13b-55a
12 of the general statutes and for the purposes described in subsection (b)
13 of this section.

14 (b) The small harbor improvement projects account may be used for

15 federal and nonfederal dredging projects to (1) support, in full or in part,
16 local and state matching requirements for such projects; (2) cover the
17 incremental costs associated with applicable environmental regulatory
18 requirements or management practices, including beneficial use; (3)
19 cover part or all of the costs of such projects in the absence of adequate
20 federal funds; and (4) fund private maritime infrastructure projects. If
21 the account is used for the purpose described in subdivision (3) of this
22 subsection, the authority shall pursue reimbursement to the account
23 from the federal government.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) to establish a "small harbor improvement projects account" and to spend any funds that may be deposited into such account on small harbor improvement projects. The bill does not have a fiscal impact because any spending is contingent on future action outside the scope of this bill.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

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)