

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5362

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS AT PUBLIC AGENCY

Title: MEETINGS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/9/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill aims to provide the public an opportunity to speak at all public agency meetings. Public input on action taken by public agencies would allow for different perspectives to be taken into consideration prior to votes, which would allow for errors to be spotted or outcomes to be enhanced. The goal of the bill is to ensure that public participation in public agency meetings are solidified in statute.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ken Girardin, Director of Policy and Research, Yankee Institute: This bill strikes a good balance between maintaining the mission of Connecticut, while also being careful not to limit government officials' ability to conduct government business. This bill allows members of the public to participate in the process, providing them the opportunity to spot costly errors as well as provide input that could enhance the outcome of the bill. The ability for the public to participate in the process, as Connecticut is a representative democracy, should be written in statute.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Jack Weitsen

Date: March 21, 2022