

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-324

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY TITLE SEVEN OF

Title: THE GENERAL STATUTES.

Vote Date: 3/18/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/9/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Title 7 of the general statutes governs municipalities, setting forth a municipality's obligations and duties, the scope of municipal powers, the roles and duties of the various municipal boards, forms of local government, the process for enacting ordinances and charters, holding public meetings, etc. This section of the statutes is not well organized and applicable information on a particular subject is found throughout the title instead of being organized in one area; it is long overdue for review to clarify and streamline municipal processes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

John Filchak, Executive Director NECCOG: Mr. Filchak suggested the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) is a more appropriate body to address the review that is called for. He suggested that the study be widened to include an examination for transfer to Title 7 or other statutes that would more logically be placed under a common title addressing municipal governance.

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Small Towns: Ms. Gara states recommendations to review Title 7 will provide municipalities with greater clarity regarding their roles and responsibilities. Further, a task force comprised of municipal representatives,

municipal attorneys and others with expertise in these matters would be more appropriate to undertake a review.

Donna Hamzy-Carroccia, Advocacy Manager, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities:

Ms. Hamzy-Carroccia stated the scope of this study is vast and the timeframe in the bill is not sufficient. OPM can recommend changes at any time and has organized informal working groups to address specific issues in the past. She recommended the Planning and Development Committee along with the Government Administration and Elections Committee and municipal stakeholders conduct the review. She further recommends that the bill narrowly define the scope of the working group and specific appointments of municipal chief executive officers and other issue area appropriate municipal staff be outlined in the bill.

Steven Mednick, Attorney: Attorney Mednick cited Home Rule 7-148 as the reason he feels the study group should address reorganizing the Title. He referenced the first 148 sections of Title 7 and stated they lack organization. He stated provisions are laid out through out the title and not in one place that clearly identifies where they are.

Francis Pickering, Executive Director, West COG: Mr. Pickering stated Title 7 is outdated and disorganized in sections and has become an impediment to the modernization of local governments.

Antoinette Spinella, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee, Connecticut Town Clerks

Association: Ms. Spinella requested The Connecticut Town Clerks Association be added as a member of the study group because many of the duties of Town Clerks and Registrar of Vital Statistics are outlined in the title.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Maureen O'Reilly

Date: March 18, 2022