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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 121

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATIONS FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) to conduct an environmental impact evaluation (EIE) before it acquires property or expands property under its care, custody, or control. It does so by making CAA a “sponsoring institution” (presumably a “sponsoring agency”) under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), regardless of existing law specifying that CAA is not a state department, institution, or agency.

Under CEPA, state departments, institutions, or agencies proposing or funding actions that may significantly affect the environment must generally prepare an EIE before deciding whether to undertake or approve the action. The EIE process involves public review and comment (CGS § 22a-1b et seq.).

The bill also expands CEPA’s list of actions that may significantly affect the environment (and require an EIE) by including (1) property acquisition by CAA and (2) the expansion of property under the authority’s care, custody, or control. Currently under CEPA, actions that may “significantly affect the environment” are activities that could have a major impact on the state’s land, water, air, historic structures and landmarks, existing housing, or other environment resources, or that could serve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals. Emergency measures to respond to immediate public health or safety threats or certain activities with limited state agency involvement are exempt (CGS § 22a-1c).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

***Related Bill***

SB 120, reported favorably by the Environment Committee, expands CEPA's public rights to sue or intervene in certain administrative proceeds to include unreasonable destruction of properties under CAA's care, custody, or control that have historic structures or landmarks.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32    Nay 0    (03/03/2023)