



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1079

LCO No. 4352



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
CONNECTICUT COMMUTER RAIL COUNCIL.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Transportation
2 shall (1) restore service on the Shore Line East rail line to the same level
3 of service that existed prior to the reduction in service due to the
4 COVID-19 public health emergency and the civil preparedness
5 emergency declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020, and (2)
6 purchase and install new rail cars for use on the Waterbury and
7 Danbury branches of the New Haven line, as defined in section 13b-78k
8 of the general statutes.

9 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Transportation shall
10 study the feasibility of developing and maintaining a mobile application
11 for the purpose of (1) integrating real-time information concerning the
12 schedules, routes, trips and locations of public transportation services
13 provided by commuter railroad systems, state-owned or controlled bus
14 public transportation services and each transit district established under
15 chapter 103a of the general statutes or any special act, (2) providing trip

16 planning services to the public, and (3) paying the fares associated with
17 such public transportation services. On or before February 1, 2024, the
18 department shall submit the results of the study and any
19 recommendations for legislation and funding necessary to develop and
20 maintain such mobile application to the joint standing committee of the
21 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
22 transportation, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
23 general statutes.

24 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Transportation shall
25 conduct a fare equity analysis to evaluate the proposed implementation
26 of permanent fare-free bus public transportation service in the state in
27 accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
28 from time to time, and the Federal Transit Administration Title VI
29 Circular 4702.1B, as amended from time to time. On or before July 1,
30 2024, the department shall submit the results of such analysis, in
31 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
32 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
33 cognizance of matters relating to transportation.

34 Sec. 4. Section 13b-212b of the general statutes is repealed and the
35 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

36 (a) There is established a Connecticut Commuter Rail Council which
37 shall be within the Department of Transportation for administrative
38 purposes only. The council shall consist of fifteen members appointed
39 with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, all of whom shall
40 be (1) commuters who regularly use the transportation services of the
41 New Haven commuter railroad line which includes the New Canaan,
42 Danbury and Waterbury branches of such line, (2) commuters who
43 regularly use the transportation services of the [Shoreline] Shore Line
44 East railroad line, or (3) residents of a municipality in which the
45 Commissioner of Transportation has proposed a new rail line or in
46 which a rail line has commenced operation after July 1, 2013. Members
47 shall be appointed as follows: (A) The Governor shall appoint four
48 members, one of whom shall be the chief elected official of a

49 municipality located on an operating or proposed new rail line; (B) the
50 president pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint three members; (C)
51 the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three
52 members; (D) the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one
53 member; (E) the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall
54 appoint one member; (F) the chairpersons of the joint standing
55 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
56 relating to transportation shall each appoint one member, one of whom
57 shall be from a municipality in which the Commissioner of
58 Transportation has proposed a new rail line or in which a rail line has
59 commenced operation after July 1, 2013, and one of whom shall be from
60 a municipality in which a station for the [Shoreline] Shore Line East
61 railroad line is located; and (G) the ranking members of said committee
62 shall jointly appoint one member who shall be from a municipality
63 served by the Danbury or Waterbury branches of the New Haven
64 commuter railroad line. Each member shall serve for a term of four
65 years. All initial appointments to the council shall be made by August
66 1, 2013, and initial members shall serve a four-year term commencing
67 on August 1, 2013. Any vacancy shall be filled by the original appointing
68 authority by appointment for the unexpired portion of any term.
69 Members of the council shall serve until their respective successors are
70 appointed and approved by the General Assembly.

71 (b) The members of the council shall choose one of the members of
72 the council to be chairperson of the council. A majority of the members
73 of the council then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
74 of any business, and action shall be by vote of a majority of the members
75 present at a meeting. The council shall meet at least once during each
76 calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairperson deems
77 necessary or upon the request of a majority of the members in office.
78 Special meetings shall be held at the request of such majority after notice
79 in accordance with the provisions of section 1-225. Any member who
80 fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar
81 year or who fails to attend three consecutive meetings shall be deemed
82 to have resigned from office.

83 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Transportation shall
 84 permit municipalities to submit two applications for infrastructure
 85 improvement projects for each solicitation of applications under the
 86 grant program known as the community connectivity grant program,
 87 provided at least one application is for an infrastructure improvement
 88 project (1) located not more than three-quarters of a mile from an
 89 existing commuter rail station, or a commuter rail station that the
 90 department is planning to construct and has received funding for such
 91 construction, and (2) includes the construction of sidewalks and
 92 accommodations for cyclists, including, but not limited to, bikeways,
 93 bicycle parking and storage and electrical connections for electric
 94 bicycles.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	13b-212b
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council regarding Shore Line East rail service, rail cars for the Waterbury and Danbury branches of the New Haven line, a public transportation mobile application, fare-free bus public transportation services, administrative support for the council and the community connectivity grant program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]