

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7286

AN ACT CONVEYING A PARCEL OF STATE LAND KNOWN AS SOUTH
Title: GREENWAY IN THE TOWN OF NORTH CANAAN.

Vote Date:

Vote Action:

PH Date: 5/5/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Horn, Sen. Harding

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires DOT to convey 9.45 acres to North Canaan for fair market value and funds would go to State Transportation Fund, plus the cost of any survey if deemed necessary for open space or low impact nonmotorized public recreation purposes, except for a portion of the parcel to be used for an emergency services facility. The bill allows the town to divide a portion not exceeding four acres to be used for the construction of not-for-profit emergency services facility to be used and managed by the North Canaan Fire Company. The parcel is to be subject to an easement in favor of the Housatonic Railroad Company for maintaining a railroad spur abutting the boundary of the parcel.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Changes to subsection (b) and (c) to make clear that if North Canaan sells or leases the parcel to a nonprofit to manage it, it must be for fair market value and any funds would go to the State Transportation Fund, but also takes out reference to subdividing parcel and just says a portion shall be used for that purpose.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Garrett T. Eucalitto: Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation:](#)

CTDOT does not oppose the conveyance for the town's plan of an emergency services facility or similar municipal facility. However, if the town wishes to subdivide this parcel or lease/transfer the property to another entity, the open space/recreation restriction should be

removed, and the conveyance should be based on fair market value. Commissioner Eucalitto also feels that if there are any proceeds from the sale or lease of this property the revenue should be transferred to the State of Connecticut and deposited in the Special Transportation Fund, not the General Fund.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Brian M. Ohler: First Selectman, Town of North Canaan:

Mr. Ohler supports this bill and hopes is to have the property conveyed to the Town by a deed that will allow the building of a new fire and emergency services facility, while containing appropriate restrictive covenants to protect continued use of the remainder of the property for passive recreational purposes. First Selectman Ohler states that space constraints at the Town's current Volunteer Fire Company facility are interfering with needed upgrading of their firefighting apparatus, limiting the capacity and capabilities of the equipment, and putting the community at increased risk as a result.

Robert LaFrance: Director of Policy for Connecticut, National Audubon Society:

Mr. LaFrance supports this bill and thanks the Committee for transparency of the land conveyance process. The Audubon Society strongly encourages the Government Oversight Committee to include a reverter clause in each conveyance, and they ask that any recreational use be limited to "passive recreation."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Greg Wolff

Date: 5/16/25