

# Government Oversight Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-523 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONVEYING A PARCEL OF STATE LAND TO THE TOWN OF NORTH

**Title:** CANAAN.

**Vote Date:** 4/6/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 4/1/2026

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen Harding

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill authorizes DOT to transfer approximately 9.45 acres of state-owned land in North Canaan (South Greenway) to the town for only administrative costs, subject to approval by the State Properties Review Board. The town must use the land for open space or low impact, nonmotorized recreational purposes, such as maintaining a greenway trail. The town may use up to four acres for a fire and emergency services facility operated by the North Canaan Fire Company while the town retains ownership. If the town does not use the land as required, sells or leases it improperly, or transfers ownership, the property will revert to the state. The parcel will remain subject to an existing railroad easement.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Garrett T. Eucalitto, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation \(CTDOT\)](#): Testified that CTDOT does not oppose using part of the parcel for an emergency services facility but recommends that if the town further subdivides, leases, or transfers the land, the open space restriction should be removed, and the property should be sold at fair market value. Any proceeds from such transactions should go to the State's Special Transportation Fund.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Jesse A. Bunce, First Selectman, Town of North Canaan:** Testified in support, stating that the conveyance would allow construction of a needed fire and emergency services facility while preserving the remaining land for open space and public recreation.

**Stephen Harding, Senate Minority Leader, 30th District:** Testified in support, stating that the proposal balances open space preservation with the need for a new emergency services facility while maintaining safeguards for taxpayers and state interests.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None

**Reported by: Clerk-Greg Wolff  
Assistant Clerk-Mike Hamann**

**Date: 4/7/26**