



Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

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FEBRUARY 15, 2006

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RB 5042: AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL PLANS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND INTERIM CHANGES TO THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY: H.B. 5042 proposes to require municipalities to submit a copy of the Plan of Conservation and Development to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management upon adoption and would revise the procedures for applications for interim changes to the State Plan of Conservation and Development.

ANALYSIS: The proposed bill would amend sections 8-23 and 16a-32 of the general statutes to require municipalities to submit a copy of their revised or amended Plan of Conservation and Development to the Secretary of OPM. In addition, the proposed bill would require that an application for interim change to the State Plan of Conservation and Development be filed by a municipality or a resident or property owner of the municipality in which the change is proposed. Such an application may not be filed unless the municipality in which the change is proposed has a Plan of Conservation and Development updated in accordance with Section 8-23.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill may have some limited fiscal impacts on some state agencies and many municipalities.

CCAPA POSITION: The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association supports the proposed changes in HB 5042 as a means of ensuring that interim changes are consistent with current local plans. However, CCAPA strongly recommends the addition of a requirement that no proposed change to the State Plan be approved without a finding that such change is consistent with the municipal plan. This change could be incorporated by the addition of the following to the proposed revision to Connecticut General Statutes 16a-32(b): **“No application for interim change of the State Plan of Conservation and Development shall be approved unless such change or changes are consistent with the policies and recommendations of the municipal Plan of Conservation and Development.”**

Finally, we note that since Section 8-23 was revised by PA 05-205, it would appear that the proposed changes to 16a-32 would permit applications for interim revisions only for a municipality that has adopted or updated its Plan subsequent to July 1, 2005. Such a de facto moratorium on interim changes to the State Plan could create unintended difficulties for proper and necessary planning and land use decisions by some municipalities.

RB 5042: An Act Concerning Municipal Plans of Conservation and Development and Interim
Changes to the State Plan of Conservation and Development

CCAPA Testimony February 15, 2006

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS: CCAPA also suggests that the Planning and Development Committee consider this opportunity to address the need for better coordinated oversight of State planning and the integration of planning across all levels of government. We intend to detail at a later date our recommendations for improving planning for the State of Connecticut and coordination of planning at all levels.

Included in these recommendations is establishment of a planning policy board or committee could be an important component of a broader series of improvements to planning for the State and its municipalities. We believe such a committee would be most effective with broad representation from the Legislature, State agencies, and private organizations concerned with land use and municipal planning. CCAPA is willing to work with the Committee, legislative staff, and other interested organizations and individuals to incorporate such considerations into this bill if appropriate.