



# Connecticut

## *Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association*

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**FEBRUARY 16, 2005**

### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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#### **PROPOSED H.B. 637 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATEWIDE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM COUNCIL**

**SUMMARY:** The proposed bill would improve the State's planning capacity by establishing a Statewide Geographic Information Council.

**ANALYSIS:** A Statewide GIS Council is an important step for planning and coordinating of planning at all levels of government in Connecticut. The objective of this bill is similar to that raised in Proposed H.B. 6458, which also calls for creation of a coordinating council. However, S.B. 637 provides appropriate detail about the responsibilities of the Council. The implementation of the Council's responsibilities would have clear benefits to the State and municipalities in planning for and managing land uses, including the diverse considerations of environmental impacts and controls necessary to preserve the State's environmental quality.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The proposed bill if enacted would have no direct fiscal impact on municipalities.

**CCAPA POSITION:** The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association supports legislation to provide effective and necessary tools to improve planning capability and coordination at all levels of government in Connecticut. Proper coordination of geographic information systems at all levels of government is an important step and **CCAPA** specifically supports the concepts of Proposed S.B. 637.

**CCAPA** believes such capability and coordination improvements may be appropriately integrated into comprehensive legislation concerning growth management, such as anticipated with Proposed H.B. 6570, An Act Concerning Plans of Conservation and Development. At a minimum, the various tools and resources available for promoting smart growth strategies should be evaluated in any comprehensive growth management legislation.