



Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PROPOSED H.B. 6457 AN ACT CONCERNING SMART GROWTH

PROPOSED H.B. 6458 AN ACT CONCERNING A COORDINATED GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

SUMMARY: The subject bills propose specific actions to improve the State's planning capacity by conducting technical and fiscal analyses of growth potential, coordinating Geographic Information Systems, invigorating the State Conservation and Development Policies Plan, and coordinating planning at State, regional, and local levels.

ANALYSIS: The proposed bills would provide effective and necessary tools for planning and coordinating of planning at all levels of government in Connecticut. The incentive based land use planning concept, raised but not detailed in the Blue Ribbon Commission Report, may be an effective tool but only to the extent that the criteria for incentives, such as targeted growth areas, are based on appropriate growth management principles and effective State level planning.

The objectives of Proposed H.B. 6458 appear to coincide with those of S.B. 637 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a State-Wide Geographic Information Systems Council, which is to be heard before the Environment Committee on February 16.

FISCAL IMPACT: Fiscal impacts to municipalities due to the proposed planning actions cannot be calculated at this time.

CCAPA POSITION: The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association supports the drafting of legislation to provide effective and necessary tools to improve planning capability and coordination at all levels of government in Connecticut. **CCAPA** believes such capability and coordination improvements should be integrated into comprehensive legislation concerning growth management, such as anticipated with Proposed H.B. 6570, An Act Concerning Plans of Conservation and Development.

CCAPA is preparing an analysis of planning resource needs, which will include recommendations for integrating planning tools and mechanisms into comprehensive growth management strategies. **CCAPA** supports the drafting of legislation based on the objectives articulated in these proposed bills and will present our more detailed analysis at future hearings on this subject.