

Municipal Tree Removal Legislation

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Issue

Identify recent Connecticut legislation directing funds to municipalities for hazardous tree removal.

Summary

Connecticut legislators introduced a number of bills in 2019 and 2020 to direct funds to municipalities for removal of hazardous trees, often caused by gypsy moth or emerald ash borer infestations. The legislature enacted [PA 20-1](#), the annual bond bill, part of which expands the purposes of local capital improvement project (LoCIP) funding to include certain municipal hazardous tree removal or trimming.

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Since 2019, Connecticut legislators considered at least nine bills to assist municipalities with the costs of hazardous tree removal. Table 1 identifies these bills and their last action.

Of the nine bills, the legislature enacted one that became law as [PA 20-1](#). Section 55, effective March 12, 2020, expands the list of projects eligible for LoCIP funding to include hazardous tree removal or trimming for non-utility related hazardous branches, limbs, and trees on municipal property or in a municipal right-of-way. LoCIP, administered by the Office of Policy and Management, reimburses municipalities for the cost of eligible local capital improvement projects, such as road, bridge, and public building construction activities.

Table 1: Municipal Tree Removal Legislation (2019-2020)

<i>Bill (Year)</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Last Action</i>
HB 5518 (2020)	An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes, and Concerning Municipal Reports on Certain Property Tax Exemptions, Validation of a Referendum and Highway Projects	Enacted as PA 20-1
HB 5474 (2020)	An Act Concerning the Use of Local Capital Improvement Fund Grants for the Removal and Trimming of Certain Trees	Planning and Development Committee (PD) held a public hearing but took no further action
SB 470 (2020)	An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Office of Policy and Management	Referred to PD, which took no action
SB 12 (2020)	An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes	Referred to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee (FRB), which took no action
HB 6569 (2019)	An Act Concerning the Use of Local Capital Improvement Fund Grants for the Removal of Dead Trees	Referred to PD, which took no action
HB 6429 (2019)	An Act Concerning a Grant-in-Aid Program for Municipalities Combating Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer Infestation	Tabled for the House calendar after the Environment (ENV) and FRB committees favorably reported the bill
HB 5886 (2019)	An Act Concerning the Use of Local Capital Improvement Fund Grants for the Removal of Certain Trees	Tabled for the House calendar after PD and FRB favorably reported the bill
HB 5253 (2019)	An Act Establishing a Grant Program to Assist Municipalities with Costs Associated with Tree Removals Caused by the Presence of the Emerald Ash Borer	Referred to ENV, which took no action
SB 876 (2019)	An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes	Tabled for the Senate calendar after FRB favorably reported the bill

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