

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6995

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
Title: OF HARTFORD COUNTY.

Vote Date: 3/7/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2025

File No.: 315

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To amend specific reporting requirements related to the Metropolitan District of Hartford County and to permit any town, under certain conditions, to become part of the district.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Wendy Loge Testimony \(Retired Resident, Stratford, CT\)](#)

Wendy Loge, a retired resident of a Stratford retirement community, writes in support of the bill and focuses on her frustration with her homeowner's association and a neighbor who complained about her Halloween decorations. She calls for laws to protect seniors and HOA residents from unnecessary complaints, especially regarding minor personal expression, such as holiday décor. She expressed frustration with her current living situation and suggested she might move to South Carolina if the issues persist, praising the lifestyle and lower taxes there.

[Christopher R. Stone Testimony \(District Counsel, Metropolitan District Commission\)](#)

Christopher R. Stone, District Counsel for the Metropolitan District Commission, writes in support of HB 6995 as it proposes two key updates to the MDC charter. The first is a reporting date adjustment, changing the deadline for submitting detailed financial and project-related reports from January 1 to July 1. Stone argues this is a practical change because the

current deadline falls just one day after the end of MDC's fiscal year, making compliance difficult.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Lori Brown Testimony \(Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters\)](#)

Lori Brown, Executive Director of the CT League of Conservation Voters, writes that HB 6995 would allow revisions to the charter of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). She criticizes the MDC for a longstanding lack of transparency and accountability and expresses concern that expanding its service area without reforms would worsen these issues. Brown urges that any charter revisions be contingent on a full operational review and a comprehensive update of the charter. She supports the idea of creating a task force to conduct an independent review of MDC's finances and rate structures, calling the agency's current business model, which is dependent on increasing water sales a "conservation death spiral." She encourages legislators to use this opportunity to implement overdue reforms and ensure sustainable, equitable financial practices at the MDC.

[Alicea Charamut Testimony \(Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut\)](#)

Alicea Charamut, Executive Director, environmental advocate, and MDC customer residing in Newington, writes in opposition to HB 6995, despite supporting its intent to expand MDC's service to more municipalities. She cites concerns about MDC's lack of transparency, poor decision-making, and resistance to legislative oversight. Two specific examples she highlights are the controversial discounted rate for Niagara Bottling, which ended up increasing costs for other customers, and MDC's attempt to extend a sewer project completion date far beyond what regulators had approved. She concludes that any charter revision or service expansion must be tied to reforms that increase transparency and accountability. Without these changes, Rivers Alliance cannot support the bill.

Reported by: Shay Richards

Date: 3/28/2025