

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7004

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ISSUES.

Vote Date: 3/7/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning & Developing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Designed to allow two or more municipalities in Connecticut to collaborate on functions they could individually perform under their respective laws. This would encourage regional cooperation and efficiency among local governments by facilitating interlocal agreements. By allowing municipalities to pool resources and share services, they can reduce operational costs and avoid duplicating efforts, making it possible to provide services such as waste management, public safety, or infrastructure projects more effectively. It also offers municipalities the flexibility to decide when and how to collaborate with each other, rather than imposing mandates from the state level. It empowers local governments to create solutions that are tailored to their unique needs. Additionally, by establishing a clear legal framework for these interlocal agreements, the bill ensures that cooperative efforts are legally sound, protecting the rights and responsibilities of the municipalities involved.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Jerry Cincotta](#) and [Debbie Esposito](#): They expressed concern about a legislative practice in Connecticut where bills are introduced with vague language, often just a small change, with the intention of making significant amendments later on the House and Senate floors, after the public hearing process has ended. They criticized this approach, pointing out that it prevents legislators from adequately reviewing the full content of the bill and understanding its potential impact. They also argued that this process, known as using "dummy bills," undermines democratic governance and limits public and legislative input. They advocate for a more transparent process where everyone could have opportunity to fully review proposed legislation, ensuring better policy development.

[John Hair](#): He argued that the public and legislators should know exactly what a bill is proposing from the start. They criticize lawmakers who introduce "dummy bills" with vague titles and no clear details, as this allows them to insert unexamined language later, avoiding scrutiny.

[Anne Jerge](#): "Dummy bills that were raised bills that lack any substance or actual language of what will eventually be raised on the floor in front of the entire legislature and voted... Tell me what are our elected officials trying to hide? Why did you vote for this? These two dummy bills completely circumvented the proper committee process and a real public hearing. Democracy is dying in darkness, we are not stupid. YOU TOOK AN OATH TO SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE, THIS SERVES NO ONE BUT YOU."

[C. Marcella Kurowski](#): Says this bill is a placeholder bill and is an overreach for state government.

[Emily Purvis](#): She described an HOA with many retired residents, where maintenance and lawn care is neglected, and starter homes with attached housing. She criticized the lack of regulation and enforcement, highlighting issues such as a board president mismanaging funds, draining a long-saved account, and leaving the community without accountability. The speaker emphasizes the need for better oversight of powerful entities like HOAs, who already have too much power, to prevent such problems.

[Kim Yannon](#): Says this is a "dummy bill" and she opposes these tactics.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

[Connecticut Realtors](#): The Association acknowledges this bill may relate to housing and development but cannot take a position on them yet due to the lack of detailed language. They note that Connecticut currently faces very low housing inventory and that the potential impact or unintended consequences of the proposals can only be assessed once more details are available.

Reported by: Austin Adil

Date: 3/19/25