

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7284

AN ACT CONVEYING A PARCEL OF STATE LAND TO THE TOWN OF

Title: PRESTON.

Vote Date:

Vote Action:

PH Date: 5/5/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Lanoue, Sen. Osten, Sen. Somers

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires DAS on behalf of Department of Mental Health and Addictive Serviced to convey approximately 1.98 acres of land containing the former Norwich State Hospital to Preston for administrative costs to be use for open space, recreation or farmers market purposes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Representative Brian Lanoue: Connecticut General Assembly](#)

Rep. Lanoue supports this bill as there is a public demand for open space, recreational or farmers' markets and these purposes aligns with Preston's long-term planning. Currently, this parcel is listed under the Norwich State Hospital and we believe it might have been accidentally omitted during the conveyance of other parcels to Preston and Ledyard. This development is in accordance with their Conservation Plan of Development. It will be a place of recreation and community activity for Preston residents.

[Sandra Allyn-Gauthier: First Selectwoman, Preston:](#)

The First Selectwoman supports this bill and states there is a strong public demand in her town for recreational and open space initiatives. This conveyance aligns with Preston's long-term planning and would align with the towns Poquetanuck Master Traffic Calming Plan and

Heritage Trail project encompassing Route 2a and the Preston Community Park and Tri Town Trail and this would be an important component and asset to that overall project.

Robert LaFrance: Director of Policy for Connecticut, National Audubon Society:

Mr. LaFrance supports this bill and thanks the Committee for transparency of the land conveyance process. The Audubon Society strongly encourages the Government Oversight Committee to include a reverter clause in each conveyance, and they ask that any recreational use be limited to “passive recreation.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Greg Wolff

Date: 5/16/25