

Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1081

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ECONOMIC STUDY ON AREAS SURROUNDING

Title: THE MOHEGAN-PEQUOT BRIDGE.

Vote Date: 3/12/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/10/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Transportation Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Commissioners of the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Transportation to conduct an economic study on the areas that surround the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge to determine if the capacity serves the areas adequately, detailing the study's contents, and requires the Commissioner to report their finds and recommendation on rehabilitating the bridge by July 1, 2026. This bill aims to recognize the significance the bridge by helping small businesses and investments as they undertake major developments in the areas and by providing options to boost its worth.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

Commissioner Eucalitto discusses in his testimony that CTDOT is in the process of a regional transportation corridor study. He highlights further that the study will be a critical first step in the federal transportation process. Data must be gathered to establish project limits, a "Purpose and Need", and a range of alternatives to carry into the NEPA phase of the project initiation. He adds that under NEPA and CEPA a reasonable range of alternatives must be evaluated to assess the impact of each alternative to the built and natural environment. Only after the approval of plans and alternatives can CTDOT move forward into design. If the process is not followed, no bridge project can proceed. Commissioner Eucalitto also pointed out in his testimony that if this bill is enacted funds will be needed to execute the study and the timeline for the study would have to be extended to December 31, 2026.

Daniel O'Keefe, Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development

Commissioner O'Keefe explained that DECD's mission to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. He encourages the committee to wait for the results of DOT's transportation corridor study to make a decision around the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge capacity.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senator Catherine Osten, Connecticut General Assembly

Senator Osten highlighted in her testimony that the area the bridge is located in is a true asset and that it is imperative that infrastructure is able to handle the various projects and developments around it.

Senator Martha Marx, Connecticut General Assembly

Senator Marx strongly supported the study in her written testimony. She highlighted that the study would provide answers on how effective travel will be affected by local construction. The study would provide development of effective travel, address major congestion issues, and ensure the daily protection drivers. She continues by arguing that the study will be the first in improving the bridge and maximizing its value as the current level of service the bridge provides is unfit.

Nick Menapace

Menapace discussed in his written testimony that the study on the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge would allow the state to better understand the needs of businesses in the area allowing for investments to strengthen the economy. The study would help policymakers identify key areas where improvements are needed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Krista Garcia

Ms. Garcia opposed the bill, citing broad reasons for her opposition.

Reported by: Patrick Riley

Date: 3/13/2025