

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1189

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF

Title: MUNICIPAL INTERNET WEB SITES.

Vote Date: 2/14/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/3/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Tom Delnicki, 14th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill is being introduced to standardize and enhance the security and credibility of municipal websites by requiring them to use the ".gov" top-level domain. The ".gov" domain is recognized as an official government domain, which can improve trust among residents and visitors. The goal is to ensure that municipalities adopt a secure, federally recognized online presence by July 1, 2027. By doing so, it aims to better protect municipal websites from cyber threats and enhance the overall integrity and transparency of local government operations.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Zachary McKeown, Advocacy Manager for Connecticut Conference of Municipalities \(CCM\)](#) supports this bill. SB 1189, an Act Concerning Municipal Internet Websites, mandates that all municipalities in Connecticut register and maintain a ".gov" domain and redirect existing websites to this domain by July 1, 2027. This is intended to enhance cybersecurity, as municipalities are frequent targets for cybercrime. While recognizing the importance of improved security, CCM is concerned about the costs of transitioning to new domains and the potential difficulties in making the switch smoothly. CCM recommends extending the deadline to July 1, 2028, to allow more time for municipalities to budget and manage the transition effectively.

[**Betsy Gara, Executive Director for Connecticut Council of Small Towns**](#) supports this bill. The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports the intent of SB-1189, which requires municipalities to move their websites to a .gov domain by July 1, 2027, to enhance cybersecurity. The .gov domain helps protect against spoofing and cyberattacks, and many municipalities are already making the transition. The DOTGOV Online Trust in Government Act has made it easier to obtain a .gov domain by eliminating the \$400 fee and offering federal cybersecurity grants to municipalities with .gov domains. COST notes that migrating is a straightforward process, and that technical assistance is generally not needed. While COST does not oppose the bill, they question the need for legislation, as many municipalities are already transitioning, and appreciate that there are no penalties for towns that cannot comply by the deadline.

The following individuals have submitted written testimony in support of this bill:

[**Paul DiGianvittorio**](#)
[**Thomas Olson**](#)

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The following individual have submitted written testimony in opposition of this bill:

[**Aaron Rivas**](#)

Reported by: Austin Adil

Date: 2/24/2025