



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7059

January Session, 2025



AN ACT STUDYING THE DANBURY BRANCH LINE OF THE METRO-NORTH COMMUTER RAILROAD AND CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Transportation
2 shall study the feasibility of (1) operating hybrid trains on the Danbury
3 branch line of the Metro-North Commuter Railroad, and (2) expanding
4 the Danbury branch line to include the town of New Milford. Not later
5 than February 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit, in accordance
6 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the results of
7 such study and any recommendations to the joint standing committee
8 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
9 transportation.

10 Sec. 2. Section 13b-212b of the general statutes is repealed and the
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

12 (a) There is established a Connecticut Public Transportation Council
13 which shall consist of fifteen members, all of whom shall be (1) residents
14 who regularly use the transportation services of the New Haven
15 commuter railroad line which includes the New Canaan, Danbury and
16 Waterbury branches of such line, (2) residents who regularly use the
17 transportation services of the Shore Line East railroad line, (3) residents

18 who regularly use the transportation services of the Hartford railroad
19 line, or (4) residents who regularly use public transit services funded by
20 the state. Members shall be appointed as follows: (A) The Governor shall
21 appoint four members; (B) the president pro tempore of the Senate shall
22 appoint two members, one of whom regularly uses public transit
23 services funded by the state and one of whom regularly uses the
24 transportation services of the New Haven railroad line; (C) the speaker
25 of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members, one of
26 whom regularly uses public transit services funded by the state and one
27 of whom regularly uses the transportation services of the Hartford
28 railroad line; (D) the majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one
29 member; (E) the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall
30 appoint one member; (F) the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint
31 one member; (G) the minority leader of the House of Representatives
32 shall appoint one member; (H) the chairpersons of the joint standing
33 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
34 relating to transportation shall each appoint one member, one of whom
35 regularly uses public transit services funded by the state and one of
36 whom regularly uses the transportation services of the Shore Line East
37 railroad line; and (I) the ranking members of said committee shall jointly
38 appoint one member who regularly uses public transit services funded
39 by the state. Each member shall serve for a term of four years. All initial
40 appointments to the council shall be made by August 1, 2023, and initial
41 members shall serve a four-year term commencing on August 1, 2023,
42 except that any member appointed prior to July 1, 2023, to serve on the
43 former Connecticut Commuter Rail Council and serving on June 30,
44 2023, shall be deemed appointed to serve on the Connecticut Public
45 Transportation Council and may continue to serve until the expiration
46 of such member's term and a successor has qualified. Any vacancy shall
47 be filled by the original appointing authority by appointment for the
48 unexpired portion of any term. Members of the council shall serve until
49 their respective successors are appointed.

50 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the members of
51 the council shall choose one of the members of the council to be

52 chairperson of the council. A majority of the members of the council
 53 then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any
 54 business, and action shall be by vote of a majority of the members
 55 present at a meeting. The council shall meet at least once during each
 56 calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairperson deems
 57 necessary or upon the request of a majority of the members in office.
 58 Special meetings shall be held at the request of such majority after notice
 59 in accordance with the provisions of section 1-225. Any member who
 60 fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar
 61 year or who fails to attend three consecutive meetings shall be deemed
 62 to have resigned from office. Not later than ten days after a vacancy
 63 occurs in the council or the resignation of a member, the chairperson
 64 shall notify the appointing authority of such vacancy or resignation.

65 (c) The Department of Transportation shall maintain records of each
 66 request for information and data received from the council and denote
 67 the status of any such request.

68 (d) The council shall prepare its budget, if any, and submit its
 69 budgetary requests to the Department of Transportation and the
 70 department shall include the council's budgetary request in the
 71 department's estimate of expenditure requirements in accordance with
 72 the provisions of section 4-77.

73 (e) The Department of Transportation shall establish a separate
 74 Internet web page on the department's Internet web site for the council
 75 and include on such web page any information as submitted by the
 76 council. Such information shall include, but need not be limited to, the
 77 council's meeting schedule, agendas, minutes, reports and resources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	13b-212b

TRA Joint Favorable Subst.

APP *Joint Favorable*