

# Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5145 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND  
**Title:** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

**Vote Date:** 3/24/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/17/2026

**File No.:** 530

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Commerce Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The mission of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. It is imperative that the state of Connecticut manage to maintain and strengthen its economic status, as doing so awards the states residents with a manageable cost of living, reliable infrastructure, tax stability, and many more perks.

This bill exists, as amended by the substitute language, to ensure that no public service company in the state of Connecticut terminates its corporation without referring to and receiving consent from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or Department of health. Requiring these companies to receive consent from higher offices offers a layer of protection to Connecticut residents that were utilizing their services, providing them with essential infrastructure protections and maintaining equitable access to resources.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE: (AS SHOWN IN LCO #3513)**

The substitute language for this bill amended the bill in its entirety. The bill now reads that no public service company has the independent authority to cease its operations as a public service company and terminate water services to its customers without, receiving consent to do so from both, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and the Department of Public Health.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

[Department of Economic and Community Development, Commissioner, Daniel O’Keefe](#) submits testimony in support of this citing, that this bill aligns with the mission of the DECD which is to develop and implement strategies to increase the economic competitiveness of the state of Connecticut, outlining that this is accomplished through revitalizing neighborhoods and communities. This bill will work to outline economic policy development to further strengthen the state's economy and support Connecticut residents, however, O'Keefe notes that this initiative was not included in the Governors Biennial Budget so funding must be identified elsewhere.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, Haley Stafford](#) writes in support of this bill explaining, that this bill works to drive Connecticut's economy by identifying any potential issues or opportunities. Through this study Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) will be provided the chance to assess funding needs and suggest potential targeted grant programs which will increase the overall effectiveness of economic development efforts within the state of Connecticut.

[Supriyo Chatterjee](#) submitted testimony regarding the constitutionality and performance of CT Innovation, a quasi-public entity that has worked alongside the DECD previously to support business growth in the state of Connecticut.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Enumaah Dadzie**

**Date: 3/31/26**