

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5146 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/17/2026

File No.: 86

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to conduct a study on issues related to the remediation and development of the brownfields of Connecticut. This bill requires this action to be completed by February 1st, 2026.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

(As depicted in LCO 2392)

Added that the brownfields working group will be working alongside the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). This group can request additional data or information required to execute this task from the Commissioner of the DECD and the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental protection. The brownfields working group must submit a report reflecting their findings by January 1, 2027.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Economic and Community Development, Commissioner, Daniel O'Keefe](#) testifies in support of HB- 5146, explaining that this bill exists as part of a greater effort to revitalize communities in the state of Connecticut through supporting remediations, assessment, and planning. O'Keefe includes that this effort will likely include 16 projects in 13 municipalities, including 9 projects in distressed communities, leaving an overall positive impact on Connecticut's cities and towns, transforming their economic outcomes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut Council of Small Towns, Legislative Director, James Berardino](#) writes in support of this bill. Berardino echoes the sentiments shared by Commissioner O'Keefe on behalf of the Department of Economic and Community Development in their written testimony. Citing that this bill will support smaller municipalities in their efforts to convert dilapidated properties into livable housing units or dwellings, in turn driving economic growth within these communities.

[Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, Haley Stafford](#) is in support of this bill. The Chamber recognizes that there are a number of properties across Connecticut which would qualify for projects or developments, encouraging economic development, that are currently limited due to the existing requirements for brownfield remediation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There has been no opposition opinion expressed.

Reported by: Enumaah Dadzie, Assistant Clerk Date: 3/14/26