

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-241 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE WATERBURY LAND BANK.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and Bonding

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

CO - SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Geraldo C. Reyes, 75th Dist.

Rep. William Pizzuto, 71st Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Waterbury, like many postindustrial cities currently has an abundance of dilapidated properties left abandoned throughout the city, damaging the value of homes and businesses within their proximity. This bill exists to provide funding for the Waterbury Land Bank Authority (WLB) to purchase, rectify, and improve properties that are in severe disrepair around the city of Waterbury.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut General Assembly, Representative Ron Napoli, 73rd Dist.](#) submits testimony in support of this bill. Rep. Napoli highlights that this bill is important largely due to the positive impact it will have on underutilized properties throughout the city of Waterbury, with the necessary financial support the Land Bank will be able to not only obtain properties but restore neighborhoods altogether.

[Connecticut General Assembly. Representative William Pizzuto, 71st Dist.](#) writes in support of this bill, citing that the excess of depleted properties in the city of Waterbury directly harms the Connecticut citizens residing there. This is largely through reduced local tax revenue, public safety risks, or diminished community morale, however, this bill has the power to revitalize the city altogether.

[Harold Webster Smith Foundation, Chairman, Jim Smith](#) has submitted testimony in support of this bill. As the chairman of the Waterbury Land Bank (WLB), Smith explains that the mission of WLB is to strengthen neighborhoods by fixing dilapidated property, improving economic development, and addressing the overall needs of Waterbury's residents. This bill has the power to strengthen the functions of the WLB, improve the conditions of the city and provide affordable homes to the community.

The following submission, is a PDF slideshow outlining the functions of the Waterbury Land Bank:

[The Waterbury Land Bank, Executive Director, Nancy Macmillan](#)

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No oppositional testimony expressed.

Reported by: Enumaah Dadzie, Assistant Clerk Date: 3/17/26