

PA12-147

SB0022

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**COMMERCE
PART 1
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**2012
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lg/sg/cd COMMERCE COMMITTEE

February 21, 2012
10:00 A.M.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Commissioner, for your testimony.

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Commissioner, thank you for being here today. I want to thank you for suggesting this legislation. I think it was an oversight in last year's bill, and as we always do, part of what the legislature does is kind of fixes the things that it -- that we didn't -- fell through the cracks. This certainly is a worthy expansion of the program in a sense covering all the people who need it. So thank you for bringing it to us. We greatly appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER PATRICIA REHMER: Thank you.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Mr. Chairman.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Senator.

There's no further questions. Thank you for your testimony.

Commissioner Smith.

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE SMITH: Good morning.

HB 5018
SB 81

SB 22
SB 1

Good morning, Senator LeBeau, who just stepped out, Representative Berger and other members of the committee. I'm Catherine Smith, the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, and I also serve as the chair of both Connecticut Development Authority and Connecticut Innovations.

There's a number of bills on your docket that I could discuss, but I thought I would limit my - my comments this morning to three bills that have not yet been spoken about for the most part, and then I would be happy to take any

questions from other committee members about any of the other legislation that involves economic development.

First, I'd like to speak in favor of HB 5018,
AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT INNOVATIONS,
INCORPORATED, AND THE CONNECTICUT DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY.

This bill proposes the consolidation of these two quasi-governmental entities into one economic development entity under Connecticut Innovations. Both of these organizations play a very important role in the state's economic development activity, including job growth, startup formation and, of course, promoting innovation here in the state. They provide a broad array of resources and different financing alternatives, as well as support for these startup organizations and for some of our businesses here in the state, and they really do contribute to making our state a more competitive place to do business.

We believe there has been positive results from both these organizations, but it's my firm belief that we could see even greater results if we combine the two organizations under one umbrella.

Why do this? Let me give you a series of reasons that I think are the right ones. First, we want to ensure complete alignment of the two organizations' strategic goals and, of course, the actions, steps and tactics that they take to ensure we have a consolidated economic development plan and action across the state.

Second, we can capitalize on the different skill sets that each of the organizations bring to the marketplace, continuing to allow each of

them to serve their core markets, but making sure that the -- the businesses that are typically served by one side or the other have access to the skill sets and the financing alternatives in those other marketplaces.

Third, I think it will allow for a more cohesive approach to promoting and marketing our programs across the state and really will provide that one-stop shopping which sometimes is -- is challenging for constituents in a state not knowing exactly where to find what across our different organizations.

So I think for focusing on recruitment and growth of new businesses, this will sharpen our focus in supporting those organizations and promoting economic development in the state.

And this targeted effort, and by definition after the merger, will -- a collaborative approach will result, and we believe, better returns for our investments in the long-term.

So I enthusiastically support the bill that the Governor has suggested to you in this -- in this context.

The second bill I'd like to voice my support for is Senate Bill 22, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITOL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

This bill will create a new authority to strengthen redevelopment areas in Hartford, East Hartford and in the whole Capitol Region. It will make the region more competitive by establishing an organizational backbone needed to better manage the state's interest and the many assets and activities in this area. Specifically, the -- the proposal will establish a 13-member governing board consisting of four members to be appointed by

the Governor, including the board's chair, two appointed by the General Assembly. And the mayors of both, Hartford and East Hartford; the secretary of the Office of Policy and Management; and the commissioners of Transportation and Economic and Community Development will serve as nonvoting ex officio members on the board.

We believe this will provide better coordination, it allows contiguous towns and regions, with the approval of their legislative bodies, to work with this organization on projects of economic development and, of course, tourism. It will also allow this new entity CRDA to provide marketing and sales ordination for Rentschler Field, the Connecticut Convention Center and the XL Center, which I think will really help them put them in a much more competitive place as they are currently managed by different organizations.

Finally, it will provide a single, strategic voice for the state's interests in other economic development activities in the Capitol region related to housing, retail, office and other initiatives, such as the iQuilt Initiative.

So finally, placing the management of these assets under CRDA will bolster efforts to stimulate new investment in the communities and really tie in our -- our work with the local towns and cities.

The third bill I wanted to speak in favor of is SB 81, a loan repayment terms and the maximum number of employees to qualify for certain economic development programs. You -- you know that we had already have had a very successful startup for the Small Business Express Package

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I would ask these programs be supported and offered to ask -- answer any questions that you might have.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Commissioner, for your testimony. I have a couple questions on the -- on the CRDA and how that would potentially mesh with our sports and marketing authority. We had received -- the Committee members and Chairs and ranking members received some correspondence from Deputy Commissioner Bergstrom on funding that was going to be placed into the marketing and sports authority by this legislation that we had championed here in Commerce several years ago, and we're excited about moving forward and having it as an entity that's viable and effective in working with CRDA. How do you see that meshing -- with those two meshing, and ultimately, expanding the state of Connecticut in the area of marketing, sports marketing and capturing some of that market, seeing that we have ESPN and NBC here now in Stamford? Interested to see how that would -- your thoughts on that.

SB22

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE SMITH: Sure. You know, I view them as to concentric circles that have an overlap interest, in particular, in sports arena -- the arenas and the various venues that we have for sports opportunities here in -- in the Capitol City. I would say that I think there are -- each of them have an addition -- a very wide scope that would go well beyond the mission of the other, but I do think they need to work in concert as we move forward, and I see them doing just that under the terms of these various opportunities for (inaudible).

REP. BERGER: Yeah, and part of that was the ability for them to be able to operate outside of government to be able to raise private dollars,

to be able to access the public/private partnership in a more effective way. So this committee certainly is excited about that -- and being able to capture those marketing dollars and potential for event dollars here in the state of Connecticut.

I had asked you, Commissioner, when you appeared before the Committee in your presentation of update on Jobs status and Jobs Bill and for the committee members that weren't here for that, if you could -- maybe explain again or if you have an update on the partnership agreement when you talked about the Express Loan program, I had questioned about the partnership agreement to the quasi-governmentals and nonprofits and the ability for them now to be able to put those dollars out to their respective regions and locations. I had given an example locally of WBC and locally in the city of Waterbury and the region, Waterbury region, the ability to be able to get dollars out. Applications are in place and processed of the ability to have that partnership agreement so we'd be able get the dollars out. And I didn't know if you had an update for us on that.

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE SMITH: So, first just an update on the numbers. Since I was here last week another 25 applications have been given to DECD to -- for the Small Business Express Program, and as you probably saw we also announced five other businesses receiving funds last week. As to the partnership agreement, it is still not inked, but it is very close. And we continue to work closely with those organizations and encouraging them until we get -- until we get that partnership agreement completed to submit any applications through DECD, and we will make sure they get funded as quickly as they possibly can.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Morning, Commissioner, great to have you here today with us.

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE SMITH: Thank you.

SENATOR LEBEAU: And thank you for all the work that you've been doing -- and how's your battery holding up?

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE SMITH: Good. Thank you, it's great.

SENATOR LEBEAU: A couple of questions. Let me start off with 5018, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT INNOVATIONS CONNECTICUT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. Just a very broad question, I just want to ensure in a, kind of, question, are there any legal issues that in terms of the -- the goals of the two bodies and/or -- and maybe Senator Frantz could help me with this -- in terms of loans that had been made and what the basis of the loans were made or agreements that have been made based upon organization being a certain way, and now we're changing those organizations. Does that affect ongoing business deals that we currently have? And have all those legal problems been thought through? Are we thinking them through? Am I -- am I -- or had I -- is there something here to be considered?

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE SMITH: So it's a very good question. And, in fact, we did engage the outside counsel for CI and CDA to look at these issues and to help in the construct of the bill itself. And the way we're -- we're approaching this, I believe in the bill, is to have two

Thank you. I would be most willing to answer any questions you have.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Commissioner, for your testimony.

Are there any questions from committee members?

Seeing -- oh, Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU: I would be remiss if I didn't thank you for coming and suggesting these changes. As I said to Commissioner Rehmer this was, I think, an oversight on our part last year and this -- this legislation will correct that and give these folks an opportunity to -- a greater opportunity for jobs and for a productive life.

COMMISSIONER TERRENCE MACY: Thank you. We appreciate that.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Commissioner.

Mayor Segarra -- City of Hartford.

MAYOR PEDRO SEGARRA: Good morning, Chairman LeBeau and Chairman Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee. It's an honor to appear before you today to testify in support of Senate Bill Number 22, which is AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITOL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

I want to start, first, by thanking our Governor and Mr. Barnes, Secretary Barnes, and their respective staff for putting forth this legislation. As you know, the City of Hartford, Connecticut's capitol city, has had a very special working relationship with the previous CEDA board and through that entity we've accomplished many great things, not to

mention the Connecticut Science Center, the Convention Center, relocation of Capital Community College, as well as Hartford 21, and other entities which bring more of an opportunity to our city for economic development.

We need to move this process forward, and I think that this bill seeks to establish that. I think that by bringing together not only the mayors of Hartford and East Hartford but also the commissioners of Transportation, Economic Development, as well as OPM, we create a better entity for collaboration and making sure that other projects, which are vital for the city and the region, are put forward.

My concern is that smaller projects, which are very important to this development, such as Front Street, continue to take root. As you know, there is still many empty storefronts. We're making some progress, but I think that this vehicle by bringing all these different persons together will provide a much better vehicle to move our city forward.

It is very important, also, that this bill be expedited through the legislative process so that we can have enough time to afford for transfer of authority between the respective entities and also that we have some clarity as well with respect to the roles and responsibilities especially vis-a-vis, the City of Hartford in the state of Connecticut, with respect to the different areas of operation.

Again, much of what we have accomplished so far in the City of Hartford during my tenure has been done through vehicles of, quote, collaboration, and just by having the right people sitting at the table making decisions and exchanging information and aligning our

policies are really key and critical to moving economic development in our city forward.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Any questions from committee members?

Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

MAYOR PEDRO SEGARRA: Thank you very much.

REP. BERGER: Commissioner Marshall.

It should be noted for committee members that Commissioner Marshall was here 15 minutes prior to the meeting today.

COMMISSIONER GLENN MARSHALL: I finally got here from last week. The traffic was bad.

Good morning, Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo, and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding Senate Bill Number 1, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT JOBS AND THE ECONOMY.

SB 77
SB 79

My name is Glenn Marshall, and I am the commissioner of the Department of Labor. I'm here to speak in strong support of this bill, and I wish to commend Senators Williams and Looney for introducing such valuable legislation.

My agency is implementing the current Subsidized Training and Employment Program, Step-Up, authorized through October's Special Session, Public Act Number 1, AN ACT PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION IN THE STATE. For months my staff has been marketing this program to employers, and employers are now

out the best approach to doing that, but it's a valid point well taken.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Representative.

If there is no further questions, thank you for your testimony, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GLENN MARSHALL: Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Jim Abromaitis from CCEDA.

JIM ABROMAITIS: Thank you. Senator LeBeau, if you're still here -- Representative Berger, members of the Commerce Committee.

My name is Jim Abromaitis. I am the executive director of the Capital City Economic Development Authority, also known as CCEDA.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you this morning. I wanted to bring the committee up to date on the activities of CCEDA in order that you have as much information as might need as you debate Senate Bill 22.

Let me start by giving you some background on CCEDA, which came into existence back in 1998. The mission certainly was and continues to be to implement the pillars projects with the cooperation of numerous state agencies, most notably, OPM's Adriaen's Landing and Rentschler Field project office.

While much has been accomplished, there certainly is more that can be done. I don't believe it would be a stretch to say that the work CCEDA has done has transformed the city.

As a matter of fact, on occasion, I have mentioned that the CCEDA model should be, in essence, franchised to other large communities in order to implement large-scale development.

Well, let me give you some facts on what CCEDA has produced to date. Capital Community College's move to downtown in 2002 had its enrollment -- has seen its enrollment grow by 60 percent. In fact, the class of 2011 and its 547 graduates was the largest graduating class in the school's history.

Downtown housing at Trumbull on the Park, Temple Street and Hartford 21 has reached what could be considered full occupancy at 96 percent, and the student housing at Temple Street at 90 percent.

CCEDA to date has funded 483 units of housing through its Appraisal Gap program with the city. This program was put in place to help develop home ownership opportunities throughout the many neighborhoods in Hartford. CCEDA has built and maintains 3,708 parking spaces in four garages within Adriaen's Landing. These garages were financed with a combination of revenue bonds, debt, and federal funds.

The highly successful Jobs Funnel initiative has developed -- was developed to assist training and placement of Hartford residents who may not have had opportunities for jobs in the construction and hospitality industry. Results speak for themselves. To date, over 2,200 individuals have been placed in construction and nonconstruction jobs.

Currently there are 680 employees in Adriaen's Landing with a projection of an additional 320 with a full -- fully built out Front Street. Nearly 30 percent are Hartford residents with

over 50 percent of the workforce being minority.

While not directly involved in the development of the Connecticut Riverfront, CCEDA has helped to fund and coordinate the work that ties the river back to the city. The riverfront through the efforts of Riverfront Recapture has become a vital piece in the resurgence of Hartford.

And, finally, to the component of CCEDA that may be of interest most to you, that being Adriaen's Landing, I am happy to update on what I consider major accomplishments in the face of the worst of economic conditions. The Convention Center has enjoyed its most successful year, this past year, with over 333,000 visitors. This represents a 50 percent increase with this year's numbers tracking at the same pace. Bringing the entire sales effort under one roof has been a very positive as reflected in these results.

The Science Center continues to bring young people to the city to experience science in the exciting way always envisioned by the Science Center Management and Science Center Board. In fact, 800,000 have visited the facility since it opened in 2009, with a projection that the center will see its one millionth visitor by year end.

The 409-room Marriot Hotel has shown significant growth since opening in 2005, selling 581,000 room nights that housed over 1.2 million overnight guests.

CCEDA is also responsible for supplying steam and chilled water to the Convention Center, Science Center and Marriott Hotel. Our Central Utility Plant is the lifeblood of the district, and we pride ourselves in making sure each

venue has what it needs to operate efficiently and comfortably.

This past year we completed and opened the highly -- highly visible Mayor Mike Peters Bridge which connects the Convention Center Plaza with the Science Center Plaza creating an easy walk to the Riverfront, as well as to East Hartford.

The Front Street Entertainment District construction was completed in 2010. While leasing retail and entertainment space in Hartford is a challenging endeavor, I am proud to say that construction on Spotlight Theater is starting with the issuance of building permits and work including the design of the music venue is underway with construction scheduled to start later this year. These two venues will occupy half of the approximately 60,000 square feet of the entertainment portion of the project and with it has come increased interest from both a number of national and local prospects.

The vision and commitment of the HB Nitkin Group of Greenwich warrants mentioning as Helen Nitkin has kept her late husband Brad's dream more than alive. In fact, the Nitkin Group is currently putting finance together with a goal of breaking ground for a 115-unit market rate apartment building with an additional 27,000 square feet of retail space. This will leave approximately three acres available for Front Street for future phases.

I'll close and certainly answer any questions the committee might have, but, before I do, let me briefly give my thoughts on the proposed authority. I was pleased to hear that the stadium could be part of the responsibilities of the new authority. CCEDA had, in fact,

recommended such a combination last year. As far as the XL Center, I'd like to think that may be two reasons to consider including it under the new authority. As you know CDA, the Connecticut Development Authority, has responsibility for that venue. I would think that the proposed merger of CDA and CI would allow for a unified quasi agency to focus on investment in job creating opportunities taking advantage of the many financing -- financing tools available to both authorities, without the challenge of the XL Center, which falls outside of their core mission.

The second reason is the upcoming expiration of the CDA lease agreement with the City of Hartford in 2013. With that date comes the question of what to do with and to that aging facility. Bringing the center under an authority which has had success in building, maintaining and managing event venues certainly would make sense.

I would also like to mention the work of the volunteer CCEDA board of directors, a great mix of people with professional skills and commitment that offer terrific -- terrific guidance to a talented staff who understands and handles the demands of a complex enterprise.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, and if you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Jim, for coming before the committee and your testimony. If I could just go back, I'd asked the commissioner earlier about -- and you were really intricately involved with the sports and marketing legislation several meetings -- a lot of meetings you were at with a lot of different

groups from Massachusetts surrounding -- the surrounding states. How do you see that potential expansion into sports marketing meshing, say, with Capital Region Development Authority and then some of the work, like you just outlined of what you've been doing at CCEDA?

JIM ABROMAITIS: As you know, Representative Berger, it's been a couple years' effort to try and put together an organization, who could market sports effectively and take advantage of the assets within the state. I'm happy to say that the Sports Advisory Board has been continuously active in this prospect and has heard the proposals from the Department of Tourism and are encouraged that there may, in fact, be an opportunity to have a statewide entity.

The Sports Advisory Board is certainly looking for additional information to make sure that what is being developed will certainly serve the purposes of the various venues and organizations around the state. In fact, we're anxiously awaiting their new bylaws to make sure that all the various regions around the state are fully represented.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, and again, thank you for your work both at CCEDA and in sports marketing in the state of Connecticut which is something we really need to capture a little bit more.

Any questions from the committee members?

Seeing none, thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

JIM ABROMAITIS: Thank you.

REP. BERGER: We are now going to move to the public portion. It should be noted that under the

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PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

Testimony by Mayor Pedro E. Segarra
City of Hartford
Senate Bill No. 22
An Act Concerning the Capital Region Development Authority
February 21, 2012, 10:00AM in Hearing Room 1D

Chairmen LeBeau and Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Camillo, Vice-Chairmen Crisco and Haddad and Members of the Commerce Committee:

It is an honor to appear before you today to offer testimony on Senate Bill 22, An Act Concerning the Capital Region Development Authority.

I want to start by thanking Governor Malloy, Secretary Barnes and their respective staffs for the vision expressed in this bill. The City of Hartford – Connecticut's Capital City – has had a special relationship with the state vis-à-vis the Capital City Economic Development Authority. Working together, great things were accomplished, including the development and construction of the Connecticut Convention Center and Science Center, creation of the Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZs)¹ and relocation of Capital Community College to its present location on Main Street. Because of the state's critical investment in the former "Six Pillars Plan," Hartford is well-positioned to better integrate, operate and market the assets of Connecticut's Capital City -- all of which will benefit greatly by a newly constructed governing structure and renamed Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA).

One project in particular that I am especially eager to move forward is the Front Street Development. While some progress has been made, too many storefronts remain vacant and it does not reflect well on Hartford – or the state. It is my hope and expectation that the new CRDA Board will recognize the importance of this project and how it will compliment the several downtown housing projects (of primary studio and one-bedroom apartments) that we have begun to move forward with the help and support of the state and federal governments. In short, I am very optimistic about the opportunities that this new board will advance – not just for Hartford, but for the regional assets that will now fall under the CRDA's jurisdiction.

It is very important to the future development of Hartford, and our regional partners, that this bill be expedited through the legislative process, thereby allowing sufficient time for the transfer of board authority and provides appointing authorities the opportunity to thoroughly review interested and qualified candidates. I also want to caution the General Assembly and, in particular, the Hartford delegation, to think carefully about delineation of powers and responsibilities and what projects remain individually and collectively under the control and management of the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut.

Again, I want to thank the Governor and his staff for their recognition and understanding of the impact this entity has not only on Connecticut's Capital City, but also how critical it is to the overall vibrancy of the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and I urge favorable consideration of Senate Bill No. 22.

¹ The creation of the NRZ's was a very important effort that recognized that strong neighborhoods would anchor vitality in the downtown.



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Testimony Presented to the Commerce Committee**February 21, 2012****Jim Abromaitis, Executive Director****Capital City Economic Development Authority ('CCEDA')****Testimony related to S.B. No. 22****An Act Concerning the Capital Region Development Authority**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and Members of the Commerce Committee,

My name is Jim Abromaitis and I am the Executive Director of the Capital City Economic Development Authority.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you this morning. I wanted to bring the committee up to date on the activities at CCEDA in order for you to have as much information as you might need as you debate the S.B. 22.

Let me start by giving you some background on CCEDA which came into existence back in 1998. The mission certainly was and continues to be to implement the pillars projects with the cooperation of numerous state agencies most notably OPM's Adriaen's Landing/Rentschler Field project office.

While much has been accomplished there certainly is more that can be done. I do not believe it would be a stretch to say that the work CCEDA has done has transformed the City. As a matter of fact, on occasion, I have mentioned that the CCEDA model should be in essence franchised to other large communities in order to implement large scale development.

Let me give you some facts on what CCEDA has produced to date:

- Capital Community College's move to downtown in 2002 had seen its enrollment grow by 60%. In fact, the class of 2011 and its 547 graduates was the largest graduating class in the school's history.
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- Finally, to the component of CCEDA that may interest you the most.... Adriaen's Landing. I am happy to update you on what I consider major accomplishments in the face of the worst of economic conditions.
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 - The 409 room Hartford Marriott Hotel has shown significant growth since opening in 2005, selling 581,277 room nights that housed 1,220,682 overnight guests.
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Work including the design of the music venue is underway with construction to start later this year.

These two venues will occupy half of the approximately 60,000 square feet of the entertainment portion of the project and with it has come increased interest from a number of both national and local prospects. The vision and commitment of the H.B. Nitkin Group of Greenwich warrants mention as Helen Nitkin has kept her late husband Brad's dream more than alive.

In fact the Nitkin Group is currently putting financing together with a goal of breaking ground for a 115 unit market rate apartment building with over 27,000 sq. ft. of additional retail space. This will leave approximately three acres available at Front Street for future phases.

I will close and certainly answer any questions the committee might have but before I do, let me briefly give my thoughts on the newly proposed authority. I was pleased to hear that the stadium could be part of the responsibilities of the new authority. CCEDA had in fact recommended such a combination last year. As far as the XL Center, I would think there may be two reasons to consider including it under the new authority. As you know CDA (Connecticut Development Authority) has the responsibility for that venue. I would think that the proposed merger of CDA and CII (Connecticut Innovations Inc.) will allow for a unified quasi agency to focus on state investment in job creating opportunities taking advantage of the many financing tools available to both authorities without the challenge of the XL Center, which falls outside of their core mission. The second reason is the upcoming expiration of CDA's lease agreement with the City of Hartford in 2013. With that date comes the question of what to do with, and to, that aging facility.

Bringing the center under an authority which has had success in building, maintaining and managing event venues certainly would make sense.

I would also like to mention the work of the volunteer CCEDA Board of Directors, a great mix of people with professional skills and commitment that offer terrific guidance to a talented staff who understands and handles the demands of a complex enterprise. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
February 21, 2012

Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development

Senate Bill No. 22

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo and other members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Catherine Smith and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the Governor's recommendations outlined in **Senate Bill No. 22 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**.

As you are aware, DECD's mission is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, ensuring quality housing, and preserving and promoting cultural and tourism assets.

It is with these goals in mind that DECD enthusiastically supports Governor Malloy's Senate Bill 22, which will create the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) to strengthen redevelopment efforts in Hartford and East Hartford.

The bill before you today will be a critical component in making the capital region more competitive by establishing an organizational backbone needed to better manage the state's interest in the many assets, activities and investments in the area. This improved coordination will lead to a thriving capital city with stronger long-term economic prospects.

Specifically, Governor Malloy's proposal will:

- Establish a 13-member governing board consisting of four members appointed by the Governor, including the board's chairman and two appointed by the General Assembly. The mayors of Hartford and East Hartford, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and the commissioners of Transportation and Economic and Community Development will serve as nonvoting ex-officio members of the board.

- Provide better coordination that allows contiguous towns in the region, with approval of their legislative body, to work with CRDA on projects for economic development and tourism.
- Allow CRDA to provide marketing and sales coordination of Rentschler Field, the Connecticut Convention Center and the XL Center
- Provide a single, strategic voice for the state's interest in other economic development activities in the capital region related to housing, retail and other initiatives such as iQuilt.

Placing the management of these assets under CRDA will bolster efforts to stimulate new investment in these communities and the region. This bill represents the type of strategic approach and focus that is needed to accelerate economic revitalization efforts in our capital city.

I respectfully request the Committee's support for this proposal.



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
Senate Bill 22: An Act Concerning the Capital Region Development Authority
Commerce Committee
February 21st, 2011

The MetroHartford Alliance is the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and municipalities. All of these investors share a common interest in the full economic and employment recovery of Connecticut, in a dynamic Capital City, and in the enhanced ability for the Region to compete for jobs, capital, and talent.

During this session, we urge the Legislature to continue to make Connecticut's economic and employment recovery and its infrastructure for sustained growth your top priority. The unquestioned foundation for that recovery and growth remains fiscal discipline. Given Connecticut's national ranking of fourth highest debt per capita, its growth in spending over the past decade, and the tax increases in its current biennial budget, it is absolutely imperative that we demonstrate that discipline by adhering to the Constitutional spending cap.

That foundation of fiscal discipline must be augmented by leveraging the past investment of taxpayer dollars in critical infrastructure. Senate Bill 22, which proposes to create the Capital Region Development Authority (the "Authority"), achieves the latter by expanding the role and geographic scope of the current Capital City Economic Development Authority ("CCEDA"), which was created in 1998 to manage the extraordinary State investment in new facilities that in turn attracted an equal investment of private capital. These facilities include: Capital Community College, the Connecticut

Convention Center, the Connecticut Science Center, Front Street, Hartford 21, the Morgan Street Garage, Rentschler Field, Temple Street, and Trumbull on the Park.

That combined private and public investment of well over one billion dollars and CCEDA's successful management of the facilities dramatically strengthened the economic landscape of the City and Region and produced an arsenal of assets that must now be leveraged for even more significant gains in employment, entertainment, entrepreneurship, housing, and the marketing of the Capital Region as a premier place to grow, launch, and relocate a business or venture. More recent developments clearly illustrate the opportunity for even greater gains: the excitement surrounding the iQuilt initiative; the purchases of Connecticut Riverview Plaza and the former WFSB site by private developers; the ongoing investments in their campuses by Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, and St. Francis Hospital; and the continued commitment to the City by our major corporate employers such as Aetna, Bank of America, Phoenix, Prudential, The Hartford, Travelers, UnitedHealthcare, and UTC.

The Alliance salutes CCEDA's invaluable achievements since 1998 and appreciates the dedication and talents of all who have served on the Board and in management and all who worked on designing, funding, and constructing the aforementioned facilities. While we are confident that this impressive portfolio of City and Regional assets bodes well for the future, we also recognize that the uncertainty of certain major facilities, such as the XL Center, the compact nature of the City, the high percentage of its tax-exempt property, and the challenges posed by its public education and public safety reputations require a renewed focus on the implications of those issues on the City's and Region's potential for growth along with a more comprehensive regional approach to addressing the issues and exploiting the potential. Accordingly, the Alliance supports a revised governing body along the lines contemplated by Senate Bill 22.

In supporting Senate Bill 22, we acknowledge the value of including elected officials and members of the Executive Branch as nonvoting members. More importantly, we also

urge the Governor, the Mayor of Hartford, and Legislative leaders to build on the success of CCEDA by ensuring that appointees to the Authority have significant private sector experience. It is critical that these individuals reflect the perspectives of our largest employers, of successful real estate developers, and of capital investors so that we realize the public-private partnerships that are the sine qua non to dynamic urban regions.

We would be pleased to answer any questions regarding our support and look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to establish an effective Authority to drive economic and employment growth in the City and the Region.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Hearing none, will the Clerk please call Calendar
Number 529.

THE CLERK:

On page 30, Calendar 529, Substitute for Senate Bill
Number 22, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITAL REGION
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; favorable report by the Committee
on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan, of the 4th, you have --

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

-- the floor.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the committee's
report in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question is acceptance of the joint committees'
favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence
with the Senate.

Will you remark?

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the intent of the underlying bill is to breathe new life back into the capital region. The City of Hartford has seen significant investments under the plan implemented over the last few years by CCEDA. Those plans have increased, significantly, economic activity. Housing investments have increased downtown occupancy. Capital Community College has put feet on the ground. The convention center has made Hartford into a convention destination. Hotel rooms and parking have been built in order to accommodate increased activity. Rentschler Field gave UConn a new football home; and, many others.

Mr. Speaker, with any project there comes a time to admit that we have accomplished certain things and ask ourselves what's next. How do we leverage the investment we have made and create a cohesive strategy that links State resources with our development goals? Mr. Speaker, the intent of Governor and this piece of legislation is to answer those questions. This is a strong step forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of Amendment LCO 5233. I ask that it be called and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 5233, which will be

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designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO 5233, Senate "A," offered by Senator LeBeau,
Representative Berger, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to
summarize the amendment.

Is there objection? Is there objection to
summarization?

Hearing none, Representative Roldan, you may
summarize the amendment.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment replaces CCEDA's
7-member board with a 13-member board that includes
municipal representation, defines the Capital Region
Development Authority's geographical purview, requires
the Capital Region Development Authority to advise state
agencies about projects in the region and monitor those
projects, evaluate and report on them, shifts specified
duties from OPM to the Department of Economic and Community
Development.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, the amendment allows to us
to leverage our assets and assists in the economic

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development efforts in coordination with Hartford, in
Hartford and other contiguous towns.

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate
Amendment Schedule "A."

Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this is a strong step
forward in leveraging on our investments and moving our
efforts forward. Mr. Speaker, it's a good amendment; it
ought to pass.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will you remark further on the amendment before us?
Will you remark further on the amendment before us?

Representatives Camillo of the 151st.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Mr. Speaker, having a -- a vital capital city and
region is -- is important not only to this area but to our

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state. And it did pass unanimously out of the Commerce Committee.

But I do have a couple questions for the proponent of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Okay. Thank you.

This 13-member board is replacing a 7-member board. Could the good gentleman tell me from where these 13 members come from? He did reference it, briefly, in his opening remarks.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the -- it is divided in various sections. The Governor will have appointing authority of four members. The mayor of Hartford will have appointing authority, one being a resident of the City of Hartford, an additional one is a City of Hartford employee. The Speaker of the House and Minority Leader jointly will be able to appoint one member. The Senate Pro Tempore and Senate Minority Leader will also be able to appoint one

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member. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, and I thank the gentleman for his answer.

Mr. Speaker, through you.

Is this the only type of regional development
authority in Connecticut?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't believe that that's the case.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

I'm sorry. I -- I couldn't hear that. I'm sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan, could you speak
your -- repeat your --

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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-- answer, please?

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

-- Mr. Speaker, there are other mechanisms across the state that have coordination ability for economic development purposes; it is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representatives Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, and I thank the gentleman for his answer.

This encompasses seven contiguous towns in the region. Could he just -- if the gentleman has the seven towns there, just so I -- and I -- I have an idea of what about four of them are.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman, those towns are the Town of Hartford, East Hartford, Windsor, Bloomfield, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Newington. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representatives Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, and I thank the gentleman for his answer.

This extends by four years, to 2017, the deadline for the State Bond Commission to issue up to \$115 million in state general obligation bonds for DECD to fund specific projects in designated economic -- in the designated economic development district in Hartford.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Is this already in the bonding bill issue, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through -- through you, Mr. Speaker, it's my -- it's my understanding that it is not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representatives Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

I thank the gentleman for his answer.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, what are some of the projects that are lined up for the -- the Hartford region and the -- the City of Hartford, in particular? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the intent here and the projects that are included are economic development projects. They were projects that have been done and completing -- completed in the City.

But there is an expansion of the housing portion of that. I believe that a thousand units have been completed over the last few years; this adds the opportunity to add an additional 2000 units to the City of Hartford.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this is intended to development river-front improvements anywhere in Hartford and East Hartford. There is a -- the intent here, also, is to develop vacant buildings in East Hartford and increase the feet on the ground in the intended district that the bill speaks to.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So there is a good, solid housing component to this.

Some of the more commercial aspects of it, projects that may be on tap, would the gentleman know, say the XL Center, that's been in the news for -- for several years

now. Are there any plans for that? We've seen some reports but I haven't seen specific.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is the case. The XL Center is covered by this bill, and there is an intention to create plans around the XL Center. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Okay, Representative. You meant to this amendment; right?

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

To this amendment; yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, and I thank the gentleman for his answer on that.

So if I'm correct in interpreting that, it's a plan with -- as far as the XL Center goes, I saw one that I think UConn had prepared. Would this be a total refurbishing of the XL Center? Would it be a mixed use? Would it

be -- I saw one had a garden in it, on top of it. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. Could the gentleman repeat the question again, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Could you repeat the question again, Representative Camillo?

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Sure, I'm sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Keeping in mind that we're talking to the amendment; all right?

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Sure. As far as the -- okay. I'll save that for the -- I'll go back to that question on the underlying bill, Mr. Speaker.

The -- that's right. That's right; the amendment is the bill, so my question was -- thank you, Representative -- just a point of a clarification. The XL Center, what exactly is the plan for that? Is it a total refurbishing? Is it just a -- a slight renovation? I saw

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one -- I think there was a study by the -- by UConn, an economist there -- calling for a total rehaul of the -- the whole area. Is that in the plans here or am I thinking about something else?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

The XL Center is located in a very vital part of the City of the Hartford. It is intended to be an economic catalyst for the City and the region, although those plans, it is my understanding, haven't been finalized relative to what the future of the XL Center is. It is my understanding that this is a very clear and important piece of the overall strategy.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And would the gentleman know if the -- I know part of those plans, and I'm sure he's seen them -- would they include a professional franchise relocating to the XL

Center?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan, do you wish to answer the question?

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

My understanding, and throughout the years there have discussions around bringing back some kind of a professional sports' franchise to the XL Center and to the City of the Hartford to add to the vitality of the City. So through you, Mr. Speaker to the gentleman, that could be the case.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the gentleman for his answer.

Is there anything in the -- in the regional development authority's plans about maybe -- I know that there's some, I guess, buying and through the bonding some buildings and refurbishing for housing -- selling off some properties also with money going to that development?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that could be the case.

With any development project, there is the opportunity to take a look at exactly what the region it is that you're trying to impact, understanding what that is and then going from there and making the necessary decisions.

The Authority will have the ability to make those decisions in partnership with the City of Hartford and the other contiguous towns.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, I mentioned that because of the -- I know in some cities, New York City, for example, they have done that and put some buildings and properties that were falling into disrepair, sold them off and to private developers. Ad now they're back on the tax roll, so that's a -- that's a good thing that it's part of the plan.

In Section 7, it talks about rebuilding a convention

center. Mr. Speaker, through you, would that go in tandem with -- with -- so the convention center we already have, a few blocks away, or would it be to replace that?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, there is no intention to rebuild a convention center. We have one that is quite well and functioning, and I don't believe that this bill intends to build a new convention center.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Oh, okay, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little confused by that then, because it's in Section 7 here. So if the -- the good gentleman could clarify that, why it's in Section 7, talking about a capital -- a convention center being constructed.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I believe the gentleman is referring to a section which speaks to other facilities that are intended to be used for convention purposes. So, for example, the City of Hartford does have something called the "Expo Center", and that location has been used in the past for different types of conventions.

So their real intent here is to take a look at all of those things in coordination with the Authority to make sure that we are maximizing the assets that we currently have in place, in coordination with our partners.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

That's not what I'm talking about.

Okay, thank you for that -- for that clarification here.

It -- because I was reading, and at -- at line 269 -- just right off the top of my head -- construct -- the definition of a convention center and then went to a convention center being -- a facility being constructed and operated, and that's what caught my eye there. So I thank the gentleman for -- for clarifying that.

I think that a few people have a couple of questions

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here, and I may come back with a few more, Mr. Speaker.
But I thank the good gentleman for his answers on these
questions and I may have some more later.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Lavielle of the 143rd.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning on this last day.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Good afternoon, ma'am.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I have a few question, if I may, for the proponent
of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, so much.

First off, I -- I wondered if the good Representative
could just summarize for us what the -- the new structure
of the organization, moving it from CCEDA to CRDA, what
does that new legal structure enable it to do or not do
that it could not do before? Through you,

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Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, many of the powers that were held by the previous organization are still held by this organization. I think the major difference between the two is that there is an expansion of the intended region; therefore, the powers that were part of CCEDA, with some additional ones, will be impacted by this.

So, for example, the -- the region which initially was covered by CCEDA was expanded to include portions down to Farmington Avenue and Laurel Street, just behind us. And in addition to that, it includes the City of East Hartford and others.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, just for clarification, the -- the change really is just a question of geographic scope?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is one part of it. It also expands the type of projects for which the Authority may issue bonds that are secured by a special capital reserve fund, and those bonds are contingent liability of the State.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I thank the Representative for his answer. Given that we are dealing with not just the local or regional budget here but obviously the State budget, to what extent or what is the split of roles here in decision making on projects between the State and the local authorities?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

The board, itself, holds final authority for any of

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the work that it decides to take on. The intent here is to create greater collaboration and coordination with the partners, the seven contiguous towns, and in particular, the City of Hartford and East Hartford, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you.

Does the -- does the General Assembly or any agency of the Executive Branch have any either advisory or decision-making capacity and in these projects?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

This is focused on the expertise that the governing board brings to the table, Mr. Speaker, through you to the gentle lady. In additions, if there are projects that require the approval of this body, the board, itself, is not meant to supersede the power that this Chamber has and the Senate.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you.

Actually, my -- my question is motivated by one -- by one concern -- not really a concern but a -- a question that I -- further question that I have, which is that we are talking about our capital region which makes this substantially different from any other region or urban area in the state because it -- it serves the function of some of the facilities we have here are actually meant to serve the residents of the entire State of Connecticut and not just the capital city and its region.

So I wondered if there is, first off, if there are plans for some of these projects to address that particular need, projects that would serve all of the residents of the state. And, if so, is the approach to them different; is the decision-making authority different? What -- what is the scope and the intended focus on that sort of project?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, you know, a good example

of this would be the XL Center. The XL Center is not just some -- a place where it is enjoyed by just the people of Hartford; it really is a state asset. And so to that extent, obviously this little gentle lady is correct that this does impact the rest of the state.

Now, as the city goes, so does the rest of the region. But in order to be able to address the concern, the board is comprised of not just people from the City of Hartford but also East Hartford, and it is intended that -- and there is very strong language in terms of coordination and collaboration with the contiguous towns, which I mentioned earlier. So it's not meant to supersede their authority, but it is meant really to be able to coordinate and have strong collaboration so that we can leverage the investments and the projects that are taking place within the region.

Through you, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you.

That's -- that's good to know. You know, we have a -- we have a small state and as opposed to a state like Texas, that I happen to be from, where it takes sometimes

an entire day just to get to the capital; Hartford is very accessible to everyone in Connecticut. So it's good to know that anything that -- that we would be contemplating on doing would -- would keep the rest of the state in mind.

I have one further question, if I may, which comes from the fiscal note on this amendment, on LCO 5233. The -- there, in -- on -- in the background section, the fiscal note refers to the SCRF Reserve Fund, which is a -- a debt-service reserve fund that would be used to pay the -- the -- the interest on the bonds. And as I understand it, if there is not enough money at a certain point in the SCRF to pay, to make a payment, that there will be a draw on the General Fund to fill it up and do so.

My question is that the fiscal note indicates that when the draw on the General Fund happens, the General Fund is deemed to be appropriated and is not subject to the constitutional or statutory appropriations' cap. I wondered if the good Representative could explain a bit more clearly how that works, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Section 3-21 of our General Statutes state that this not count against the state's statutory limit on general obligation bonds, and -- through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I'm not sure I heard an answer, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. It is a little noisy in here. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

It does not count against the state's statutory limits on GO bonds.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you.

So in the event that there isn't enough in the General Fund to replenish the SCRF to make the payment, it would still -- what -- what happens in that event?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through -- through you, Mr. Speaker. All of this work is done in conjunction with the state treasurer and thus the state treasurer has significant influence on how this work is done.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, the state would -- could possibly have to appropriate funds. Through you, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Okay.

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the gentleman for his answers. Thank you, very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Sawyer, of the 55th -- and I got it right -- you have the floor, ma'am.

REP.SAWYER(55th):

Mr. Speaker, it's nice when you get it right. It's nice to see Representative Sayers over there today, as well, from the 66th [sic].

Mr. Speaker, I was studying this particular amendment because it is a rewrite of the underlying bill. Representative Roldan did a wonderful job explaining a lot of the pieces to it, but I tried to look through the fiscal note and I would like to ask what the anticipated cost is for the projects in total, the projects that are mentioned in this particular amendment.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

The -- they have the authority to issue up to \$115 million in projects, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Is that -- through you -- is that statutory authority for all projects coming up for the next year or is that inclusive of just the projects that are within this amendment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

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REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that would be through -- from now up until 2017.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Would you anticipate, then, that there would be projects coming between now and then, other than these projects through that 115 million? Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Well, Mr. Speaker, the -- so this is only what the Authority has, which is up to \$115 million up to 27 -- through 2017. However, the intent is to have coordination among the different towns. So to the extent that those other towns have projects, obviously you are leveraging against the \$115 million. So the -- we only hope that it would certainly exceed that but certainly the Authority only has up to \$115 million, up to 2017.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

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REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you.

In looking at the makeup of the towns, are there any -- are any of towns new and to be new to this particular authority, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is the case, to the gentle lady.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

I read -- it's through you, Mr. Speaker -- I read --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

I read carefully the first part of the amendment, and it -- it describes the towns that are contiguous to our capital city. Is Wethersfield also included in this?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady, that

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is the case.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you.

You had listed them before, and in trying to do two things at once, I had missed that particular town.

Mr. Speaker, if the good gentleman would refer to -- it's page 40; it would be line 1296. Mr. Speaker, if the proponent would kindly explain what it means, following 1296, as amended by this act there are sections of statute there and it refers to the overall project. If he could just decode what that particular section refers to, Section 22, line 1296 and -- and through the remaining section of 22.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan, could you decode that, please?

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, Section 22 extends the period for the State Bond Commission to issue the GO bonds for the purpose of funding the projects.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

That is a big help, you know, as we look quickly at these amendments as they are flying by on the last of session and it refers to multiple sections, and it's not terribly clear. I appreciate the help on that because I -- I couldn't sort that piece out.

I apologize, Mr. Speaker. It's a 52-page bill and I have to find my other notes. Thank you, very much. If I might move back to the forward part of the bill, just in Section 7m on line 309 through 313, it's a description of a change in a description of some property up above that is bracketed out and then new property on Laurel Street and then -- then it gives a very detailed description between Forest and Farmington Avenue, Asylum Avenue. If you could please describe what that project is, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the -- the -- the gentle lady is correct. I actually have to visualize this; I have a map. So it -- it is -- it is intended that there's an expansion of the region for purposes of the leveraging on

investments. The ground that we stand on is actually now part of this region, and it does extend to about two blocks, I believe three blocks west from where we stand. And it does extend --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Yup.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

-- to three blocks heading west and about, I'll say, two, three blocks heading south, and a couple of blocks heading north. So it is intending to expand what we define as typical "downtown," in order to be able to leverage on the properties and the investments that we have within that particular region.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That -- that was a big help; a verbal map works very well.

Mr. Speaker, through you, in this project in -- in this -- in this amendment that becomes the bill, is the Capital West project in this, through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it could potentially be. It's certainly within the geographic boundary that I described.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Mr. Speaker, I apologize; I probably should have described that a little bit better. Those of us that know what we're talking about, there has been a building that has been abandoned for many years and it sits right at the exit ramp of Asylum Avenue. There have been fabulous cranes standing there, the last few weeks, and there has been activity. It has been a little bit of joy in my heart to know that that particular eyesore will be taken down from our capital city. And it is my hope and desire that if -- as we're looking forward in some of these projects, that that piece of property -- because partially where it is located has a -- a little bit of a traffic nightmare. But it has a -- it's a very prominent piece, and it is one of the gateways into our capital city. So I am very, very pleased that that is -- action is happening.

And I will be looking forward to watching the new capital

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develop -- no; I'm going to get the name right,
Mr. Speaker -- it's new Capital Region Development
Authority. As we change names, we have to follow -- untie
our tongues.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, is there in this particular
change for this new Authority, is -- other than the
name -- is there any big change in the power that the
Authority has, perhaps in expenditures, perhaps in
something we've been looking for, and that is more regional
cooperation amongst the Authorities? Could you just
describe the power shift that is happening through this
particular amendment?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you to the gentle lady
for her question.

The Authority is going to certainly have certain
powers. Those powers are similar to the powers that the
previous organization had, however, the bill does
specifically describe what -- the amendment, through you,
Mr. Speaker -- describe what those powers are.

For example, through you, Mr. Speaker, the change of

the board certainly has a -- there's a new configuration to that organization. It certainly adds to the geographic purview, so you have additional towns that are part of this process. It expands the project planning, monitoring and -- and evaluation duties that are transferred to the organization. It assigns additional duties to the Authority that differ from those assigned to CCEDA, including, for example, the managing of facilities and promoting tourism, through you, Mr. Speaker.

And there were certain duties that were held by the Office of Policy and Management and powers held by the Secretary of the said organizations. Those duties are transferred to the Department of Economic and Community Development and to the commissioner of that organization.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Could you also describe the shift in the makeup, because there are going to be multiple towns or increased in the number of towns in this particular Authority, where the balance of power, how the balance of power was decided upon?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, one specific example that I can share with the gentle lady, as I mentioned earlier, the Governor, the mayors are part of this. But in the previous iteration of this, for example, I believe the City of Hartford had representation on the board; however, this does expand the type of representation and who sits at the table in order to better leverage on investments.

Through you, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One of the, I think, positive pieces of this particular amendment was the inclusiveness of someone who had to be chosen from -- a resident from the City of Hartford to be on it. I think that is going to be, you know, the hometown attachment but also as we look to reach out to the surrounding towns, to make this a more powerful region.

When we studied the -- as the -- study the historical

nature of Hartford and how it grew compared to how other major metropolitan districts have grown -- so we'll use Texas, as an example -- Hartford was actually closed in because of very early boundaries that were drawn in the beginning of Hartford. We also have a river that's an issue.

But with the advent of multiple bridges across the river and I think more of a community based feeling between -- I want -- I'm going to call it the capital basin -- we're -- I think this is going to strengthen the regional feeling for our capital city that it's not just a city but also the region of the capital.

I would like to thank the gentleman for his answers and his work on this, because probably no one knows the City any better than he does. The good Representative Roldan has shepherded through a lot of advancement for the City of Hartford, and these pieces that he knows all too well, I think will be one of the guiding lights as we bring Hartford forward to the -- to the next era.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Alberts, of the 50th.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. And I have a few questions to the proponent, if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In Section 5 of the amendment, lines 150 through 152, I was trying to determine what we're looking at doing there. But it appears that we're including for state service eligibility purposes some folks or individual that may presently be an employee of the Capital Region Development Authority. And I'm -- I'm trying to get a sense of the universe of folks that this -- these two lines may be referring to.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I believe that is referring to the employees of the Authority.

Through you, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And just for my understanding, about how many employees might be -- now if this amendment is -- becomes law, as the bill, about how many potential new employees might we be talking about who we'll be accrediting with State service?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

I think, Mr. Speaker, that was for Representative Roldan.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

I'm sorry. Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Thank you to the gentleman.

You know, I -- I can't answer that. I believe that that would be up to the board. I can tell you that CCEDA organization has worked as a very slim organization. It's not a -- an employee-heavy organization. Obviously, any investments that are made, we want to see those investments made in a responsible fashion.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And just so that I understand better, if -- would it be possible that the agency that we're looking at, the capital city or Capital Region Development Authority would own a facility, say like, like the XL Center, and then the folks that work at the XL Center might come underneath this category and might be eligible for State service?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there is potential for that.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That -- that I would object to vehemently. I -- I just -- I'm very cautious about expanding the rolls of -- of what we consider to be State employees. But

overall, I -- I believe the amendment which is before us, which will become the bill, is very well crafted.

Going a little further, in looking at Section 8, page 9, there is reference in line 257 to a change in terms of the number of downtown housing units. I believe we're looking at going from 1000 to 3000. I just want to get an understanding of if there is one particular project or of several projects that are contemplated; there's a major increase, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct; that is a major increase. Obviously this would be within the district, and the City of Hartford has already over the last several years constructed close to about a thousand units, so we really are talking about an additional 2000 units to those units. So to the extent that they have to plan for those units, obviously there will be an impact on growth in the area of downtown.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So if I understand the proponent right, really right now we're at the max for what we can do and we need this increase to -- to make it work.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I think my last question is in reference to the fiscal note OFA has prepared for us, and it references Section 22 of the -- of the amendment. And I just want to make sure I understand it properly.

This section in the amendment, according to Office of Fiscal Analysis, will extend the time period for the State Bond Commission to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding projects. But the bill, itself, this bill that is before us does not authorize the issuance of any additional general obligation bonds. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the -- the board will only have authority up to 2017, of up to \$115 million, as stated. So beyond that, there is no further authorization.

Through you, Mr. --

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Okay.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

-- Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And that's my understanding as well. I -- I rise in support of this amendment which is before us, exclusive of the comment about making all the folks potentially State employees or getting credited for State service.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Ritter, of the 1st.

REP.RITTER (1st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you. And I apologize for running up; that -- that board gets full pretty quickly.

I just want to thank the Representative for bringing this out, my colleague from Hartford, but also the Governor's Office. As someone who was born and raised in the City, many of you know that we -- we -- we have our -- our problems at times. This is one of the largest, single investments in the City of Hartford in the last 20 years, and it would be easy for the Governor's Office to say with all that they have going on that this is not a priority.

Instead, they are going to reinvent the City of Hartford. It takes courage. It takes pride, and also takes a bit of a leap of faith to make this kind of investments in cities. But we're a great City. We're the home of three Fortune 100 companies. We're the home of Mark Twain. As Representative Fox keeps saying, We used to be the home of the Whalers. We have a lot of wonderful people in our city, through you, Mr. Speaker, and we cannot give up on Hartford, because with no disrespect to any

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other municipality in this state, we are literally the heart of the State of Connecticut.

And Governor Malloy, and I hope this Chamber have said, we will continue to fight. We will do everything we can do bring every -- to bring the City and downtown to even further progression. And this is a huge step in the right direction. So I encourage my colleagues, vote yes on this, continue to have faith in us; we're going to get there. We are the heart of the State of Connecticut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Monk Shaban, of the 131st -- it's known as the 135th.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

One thirty-five. And for what it's worth, Mr. Speaker, Redding purports to be the home of Mark Twain, but I'll have that discussion with Representative Ritter.

Through you, if I may, a couple of questions to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, sir.

Through you, I was just -- one of the things that jumped out at me was in Section 10, the whole condemnation procedure. I was hoping to get a little clarity on it.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, did the previous entity that I guess we're replacing or at least renaming, did that entity also have condemnation powers?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the -- the mission of CCEDA was -- the -- the duties are broader and the powers are a little broader. But obviously the condemnation issue is -- is a power that is added in here.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

If -- I think I understood the gentleman that the condemnation powers with this entity are actually new to this effort, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that's my understanding.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, that's -- yeah. And -- and that's why I asked, because once we give entities or quasi-governmental agencies the power of condemnation, obviously it implicates money and rights and -- and whatnot, so if I could just dwell on that for a little bit. Looking at -- in Section 10 or actually it's starting on line 660; it's the new language, in addition to the powers enumerated in, and it goes on. In (d)(1) it talks about the -- the power to acquire by gift, purchase, or condemnation, and it goes on. But then again in (d)(2), it says in consultation with the chief elected official of the Town and City of Hartford to condemn properties.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to figure out why is -- what's the distinction? What's the difference between the condemnation in Section (d)(1) and the condemnation powers in Section (d)(2)?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

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REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the -- the issue including the chief elected official is a matter of having the ability the coordinate with the City. Obviously the agency or Authority doesn't want to go and do something that might not be in accordance with whatever plans the City has. So it really is a matter of creating a coordination point for that process.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And a final question. I -- I -- just to make sure we're -- we're clear, the condemnation in Section (d) all the way through that, they're all going to be subject to the standard condemnation laws that we already have in the General Statutes?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman, yes, that is the case.

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REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Represent -- Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the gentleman's responses.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miner, of the 66th; sir, you have the floor.

REP. MINER (66th):

Cheerful Mr. Speaker, good afternoon.

If I might, a few questions through you, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Has Representative Rose said yes today? No. But sir -- but you can proceed, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I -- I've been looking through this rather large bill and I -- my sense is that the proponents recognize that not only is Connecticut stronger by having Hartford stronger, but Connecticut is stronger by having the whole downtown or the center of Connecticut stronger.

And if I could, through you, it appears to me that

early on in this amendment, there's an expansion of the Authority which appears to go into East Hartford. Am I correct, through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the good gentleman Representative Miner, that is the case.

Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And -- and so with regard to the development opportunities, are -- are these opportunities going to be quasi-public in nature in all cases?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the extent that the board has to act, obviously their involvement is as a quasi-public agency, so those are quasi-public projects. However, I think if you look at some of the projects that

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have taken place in downtown Hartford, for example, you look at something, at a Capital Community College building, that is a project that was done on a quasi-public agency; however, for example, the facility is owned by someone else.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative --

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

-- the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

-- Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank -- thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm -- I'm trying to under -- thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without asking the gentleman to repeat everything that he just said, what I'm trying to do is to -- I -- I understand that this is a quasi-public agency, and I understand that there will be perhaps a leveraging of State funds to do these projects. My question is: In all cases, would these either be public pieces of real estate or would they be quasi-public, meaning would the State or would the City of East Hartford or the City of Hartford have some title to those projects being developed in all cases?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there are various ways to think about this. Obviously you have private, private-public partnerships. You have projects that are -- could be owned --

REP. MINER (66th):

Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear him.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

I apologize. We'd ask you to take your conversations outside. Representative Miner is asking Representative Roldan some questions and he cannot hear the responses, and I guess he can't hear himself. So this level is good. If we could maintain this level of noise in the room until we get this questioning over with, that will be great.

Representative Miner, want to try again?

REP. MINER (66th):

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize to the gentleman.

What -- what I'm trying to understand here is that as we seek to strengthen the capital city and apparently the City of East Hartford, to the extent that we're going to commit

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State assets, State dollars through this Capital Region Development Authority, my question is: Will those assets, those dollars, whatever support we provide, will those be brought to bear on parcels of property that are either owned in fee by the City of Hartford, State of Connecticut or East Hartford?

Through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, quasi-public agencies have relationships and will have relationship with the City of Hartford. It could be the City -- Town of East Hartford. It could be public-private partnerships.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative --

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

-- good gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

-- Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And in -- and in those cases where they could be

public-private partnerships, is it a circumstance under which the private entity benefits from our financial participation, and other than that participation, we don't have any role? We don't -- we don't lease it? We don't, you know, we're not letting UConn play in it; that sort of thing?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there could be various potential arrangements in how this plays out. Obviously, \$115 million is only the up-to amount that we have to -- that we have authorized the Authority to work with. So to the extent that there are opportunities for development that will impact and improve upon the region, obviously that will be depending on whatever the project is before the Authority at the time.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I know there were some questions about the powers;

I think they were put forth by Representative Sawyer. And my question has to do with eminent domain. I was serving on the Planning and Development Committee back at the time I think Adriaen's Landing was a big issue, and -- and if the gentleman can tell me, will this Authority have the authority of eminent domain as well?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is a potential.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And when the gentleman says "a potential," is it that -- that the authority is there but clearly just because you have the authority doesn't mean you exercise it?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

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REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is the case. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At the onset, I made the statement that I do think that there is great value to strengthening our capital city and in this case I guess our capital region. When I look across the river, I think to myself, you know, that probably is the next area of expansion for the City of Hartford, other than up. And to the extent that this is not unusual, states quite often put their assets in place where public-private relationship exist or even private relationships exist to develop economically beneficial areas, further employment, redo downtowns; this is not unusual.

And so the -- the reason for my questions were: Are we -- are we looking to, let's say, develop East Hartford to the same extent that Hartford is developed? And then if I were to look across the river, is there any vision that the gentleman is aware of as to how pedestrian traffic and the like might actually be connected to downtown,

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itself?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

It's through you, Mr. Speaker to the gentleman, that certainly could be the case. I mean, I think if you look right now at the riverfront area, there is actually a pedestrian bridge that crosses, that people come through to both, from both sides of the river. There is a hotel right across the river that people just walk right over to the science center, to the convention center, and to other assets that the City of Hartford may have and vice versa.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do thank the gentleman for his answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Wood, of the 141st District.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I was just making sure my question had not been asked yet. One, quick question to the proponent of the bill, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Can you please tell me the difference between the Capital Region Development Authority that will become the product of this bill and also how it differs from the MetroHartford Alliance?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady. The MetroHartford Alliance is essentially the Chamber of Commerce for the City and the region. It is a private organization composed of the primarily corporate community in the City of Hartford and the region. This Capital Region Development Authority is a quasi-public agency under the purview of the state.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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Thank you, sir.

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

But it sounds like you'll both be working on economic development. How will you work together with MetroHartford Alliance, through you?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, in the same manner that I think the Capital Region Development Authority will work with the City of Hartford, itself, which is a matter of -- and the other towns -- which is a matter of coordination and matter of discussion of projects.

I know the CEO of the MetroHartford Alliance is extremely involved and has been involved in many of these discussions, so I would expect that they will continue to work in partnership and in coordination with the Capital Region Development Authority.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentle lady.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

One -- one more question. What is the cost -- and

this probably has been asked -- what is the cost of running this development authority?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. WOOD (141st):

And --

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, does the gentle lady mean the operational budget of the organization or does she mean the \$115 million that have been appropriated up to 2017, in general obligation bonds that have not been issued but they have the power to issue?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Operational. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if I refer to the fiscal note in Section 9, it states that this may result in a cost of less than a thousand dollars to agencies participating

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in the task force and in the work.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

So it seems like both of them are working on economic development in Hartford, and one is a nonprofit, private organization and the other is a State-supported organization. So I, while I understand the intent of it, I -- I'm -- I'm not quite sure how I'm going to vote.

I understand the need to improve the business climate in Hartford and I appreciate the good Representative's answers, but I'm undecided on this.

Thank you, very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on the Senate amendment before us? Will you remark further on the Senate amendment before us?

If not, I will try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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All those opposed, nay.

The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will
you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the well
of the House. Will members please take your seats. The
machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Ladies and gentlemen, the House of Representatives
is voting by roll call; members to the Chamber. The House
is taking a roll call vote; members to the Chamber, please.

(Speaker Donovan in the Chair.)

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members
voted?

If all the members voted, please check the roll call
board and make sure it's properly cast. If all the members
have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will
please take a tally.

Clerk, announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 22 as amended by Senate "A," in

concurrency with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	150
Necessary for Passage	76
Those Voting Yea	139
Those Voting Nay	11
Those Absent and Not Voting	1

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

Any announcements or introductions? Any
announcements or introductions?

I wonder if I could have everyone's attention. We're going to have a short presentation, actually here on the heels of -- on the passing the education bill, I'd like to -- we're going to take some time to recognize the first African-American to be elected to the Connecticut General Assembly, Wilfred "Spike" Johnson and his -- additionally his wife, his widow, Gertrude Mero and the legacy we all contribute for education.

So with that, I'm going to ask members, some of the members of Black and Puerto Rican Caucus to say a few words. And with that, I'll call on Representative Morris.

Representative Morris.

(Representative Morris, of the 140th District, in the

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THE CLERK:

Total Number voting	36
Necessary for passage	19
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 331, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 22, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, favorable report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark, sir?

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to do that.

This bill seeks to revitalize the Hartford area, at least in small part, through the reorganization of the Capital City Economic Development Authority into a new board called the Capital Region Development Authority, which will place the management of many of the assets, like the XL Center or the convention center and

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Rentschler Field, under one roof.

The new organization will coordinate the state and municipal leaders, as well as the business community, to help jump-start development in the region. This is a -- one of the Governor's initiatives. And it, as I said, it redesignates CCEDA as CRDA. And in doing so, it expands the scope of the project CRDA can develop in the district, including riverfront improvements anywhere in Hartford or East Hartford, and replaces the seven-member CCEDA board with a 13-member board that includes municipal representatives. It designates Hartford and it's seven contiguous towns as the capitol region. It requires CRDA to review and comment on any state-funded project in the capital region and not just what used to be known as the Capital City Economic Development District, which is a small district down by Colt Park.

It assigns additional duties to CRDA that differ from those assigned to CCEDA, including managing facilities and promoting tourism. It reduces some of the paperwork requirements from the past and it makes some specific shifts in authorities regarding some of the workings of the agency.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, thank you.

Yes. If this item might be passed temporarily.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 239, on page 5, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE DISTRIBUTIONS OF THE BLOCK GRANT TO THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND THE

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THE CHAIR:

Right. Thank you.

THE CLERK:

Page 7, Calendar 331, Substitute for Senate Bill
Number 22 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITOL REGION
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. Favorable Report of the
Committees on Commerce and Government Administration
and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President. If I could just have a
moment to get myself prepared.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(CHAMBER AT EASE.)

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you for your indulgence, Madam President. I
move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable
Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark,
sir?

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President. What this bill does is,
it take the Capitol Region Development Authority,
gives it a new name essentially and places the
management of regional assets like the Excel Center,
the Convention Center, Rentschler Field under one
roof.

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The new organization will coordinate with state and municipal leaders as well as the business community to help jump start development in the region, to help stimulate development in the region.

One of the goals of the new board will be to get different assets that will fall under its purview to stop competing with each other. There should be unified approach to encourage economic development, tourism and convention and the convention trade in the region.

The new board will also have expansion of responsibilities and absorb the revenue stream currently dedicated to the Capitol City Economic and Development Authority.

Madam President, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO Number 5233. If he would please call it and may I be allowed to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call LCO 5233 please. Will you stand at ease for a moment, please.

(CHAMBER AT EASE.)

Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5233, Senate "A", offered by Senator LeBeau et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

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SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to talk a little bit about --

THE CHAIR:

You would like to make a motion first.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

I would like to make a motion for passage please.
Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR LEBEAU:

What I'd like to do, if I may be allowed to summarize the amendment, I'd like to summarize the amendment along, since the bill, since the amendment is a strike-all, to talk a little bit about what the bill does and at the same time what changes are in the amendment from the original bill.

The bill renames and expands the board of the Capitol City Economic Development Authority. It will now be the Capitol Region Development Authority.

The board of directors has expanded from its current seven members to a board of thirteen.

The amendment, in the amendment the state officials and mayors were serving as ex-officio and this clarifies that they are voting members of the board of directors, not non-voting members. This is a correction.

The amendment also clarifies that this is a renamed organization rather than a successor organization.

The bill expands CRDA's powers to not only attempt to contract conventions and trade shows, but also to include conferences, consumer shows and other events, some very common sense features there.

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To encourage residential development. CRDA is required to work to stimulate economic development in the region at the request of the towns in the Capitol Region and assist them in economic development and tourism initiatives.

The amendment also requires CRDA to promote multicultural destinations and a vibrant multi-dimensional downtown in Hartford.

Under this bill, the CRDA's scope of the Capitol City Project is expanded and specifically includes East Hartford in the development of riverfront infrastructure and improvements.

It also increases the construction and rehabilitation of the residential housing units from its existing 1,000 units and what the amendment does is increases that to 3,000 units.

The bill expands CRDA's authority for the development of certain projects as noted with respect to the riverfront infrastructure and again mentions also East Hartford, not just Hartford.

It expands the area defined as the Capitol City Economic Development District and expands it in Hartford to an area that encompasses more of the Park Street area down to the Sigourney area that would encompass more of Hartford's primary district and additionally pick up commercial area along the Park Street.

The amendment also expands the CRDA's authority to develop and redevelop property and provides it similar, authority similar to CRTA's authority with respect to the development of the property for the Convention Center and hotel.

The amendment also allows the state to enter into a contract for CRDA to work with the state to facilitate the relocation of state offices within the development district.

The amendment in front of us clarifies that this is an economic development project as CRDA has requested to

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participate in.

The amendment removes a sunset provision altogether. That is a summary of a fairly lengthy bill, Madam President. It's an important bill because it will help, I believe, to provide some tools, some additional tools for development of both Hartford and the greater Hartford region.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark? Senator Markley.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

If I may, Madam President, through you, a question to the proponent of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

I was just wondering specifically if it could be explained what kind of expanded powers are granted in terms of development under this proposed amendment?

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Through you, Madam President, essentially, Senator, this is a renaming of an agency that currently exists. There's a whole variety of powers that are listed in the bill in terms of some things that have been done, like the Convention Center, some things that have not been done.

And particularly, I think the major power that's been added is the development, to help with development along certain geographic areas of the City of Hartford.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Markley.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

Thank you, Madam President. If I may ask, through you, I'm not looking necessarily for a technical explanation of what's involved. Again, it's not my area of expertise and frankly, again, it's a certain curiosity I have about the program.

When you talk about geographic areas, do you, if I may ask, through you, Madam President, if this has, involves the Iquill Project, which is now under way in Hartford, the development of a walkway from the Capitol down to the riverfront area, if this is a change that is necessary for the progress of that, if in fact, that's, I again don't know the answer and I just wonder if the proponent would have the answer.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Through you, Madam President, yes, it would affect that in that they would help to oversee that and work with them to make this to become a reality.

They have the ability to develop and redevelop properties within certain areas in Hartford and that would be included in that.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Markley.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. And just to continue with that a little bit, if I may ask, through you.

When you say that the Authority has the power to develop and redevelop, obviously, I'm assuming it's

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not because they own the property, but I don't know whether that's a power to obtain property, to take property by eminent domain, whether it involves the financing of the program and attain, I'm not looking for chapter and verse, but I wonder if I could be illuminated as to what the procedure is that this Authority would be undertaking in order to implement the plans that I have seen put forth in the Iquid Plan. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Through you, Madam President, again, I would say that these are not new powers. These are an expanding of the scope of the powers, and within a larger area than previously existed.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Markley.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

Thank you, Madam President. I suppose I suffer from the disadvantage of not having been here when the powers were initially granted and again, it's not something that I've been examining but I noticed it on the Calendar some days ago and was wondering about it.

I will take it that, I'll take it that the powers that they've had haven't done anything too alarming or we would have known about it and I guess I would say, if the proponent can, has anything else that he might offer in terms of what these powers are, the old and the new powers, I would be interested in hearing about it if possible, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

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I would like to refer the Senator to Page 9 of the amendment. There's a lot that can happen here. Bonding can take place. The state can work with the city. Excuse me, the Capitol Region Development Authority can work with the city and work with East Hartford.

We're talking about expanding the bond, excuse me, expanding the housing component. We're talking about helping for economic development and tourism.

I see kind of a working together with certain powers that the city has, powers that the state has, to create this entity to pull, actually, I think that's the key concept here, is to pull the various entities together to use their joint clout or joint power to make things happen and to develop and to stimulate economic activity, particularly in downtown Hartford but also in other parts of Hartford.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Markley.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you to Senator LeBeau for his answer.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President. And Senator LeBeau, I am going through this as quickly as I can. It looks to be a very good amendment, which will become the bill, it being a strike-all.

One of the features of it that I like in particular is that the Excel Center, formerly the Civic Center, has been segregated from CDA/CI, which is a great move

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because it allows that newly merged entity to focus solely on job creation, business retention and financing companies that need that financing desperately to exist, survive and expand.

And I don't need to tell you, Senator LeBeau, but the rest of the circle might be interested to know that for 20 plus years the Excel Center or the Civic Center has been under the control of the CDA and it has been exciting, but it's been a real distraction. It's been very difficult to manage and I think the group has done a fantastic job given the disadvantage of requiring a great deal of capital and operating expenses to survive and it has not been the easiest of environments to say the least over the last two decades plus. So I'm particularly pleased with that.

And through you, Madam President, I do have one question on the amendment, through you to Senator LeBeau.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, and through you, Madam President, Senator LeBeau, the amendment language calls for the CRDA to have the authority to issue bonds to meet its objectives and its reason for existence.

Are these bonds that will be issued to the public, are they backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Connecticut? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

I believe that they would be revenue bonds, through you, Madam President, they'd be revenue bonds dependent upon dollars that might be taken in on various projects that CRDA might start or continue.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you. And through you, Madam President, and again, I'm searching through the language here furiously to try to find some sort of a limiting component in the language in terms of how much can ultimately be issued by this particular authority going forward. I can't find anything yet, and another language may be new to you as well, Senator LeBeau.

But through you, Madam President, are we going to have to rely on the natural forces of restraint or the free market i.e., the market cannot or will not purchase any more bonds because they think that the authority is issuing too much or by virtue of the judgment of management and this governance board that they've reached their borrowing capacity. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Through you, Madam President, I would agree with that. That combination of whatever the projected revenues are and the management, which I think we'll have a regular management structure and a board of directors working on this, and they will be able to hire the right people and have all the consulting that they need to bring in to insure that moving forward that this will be, if they are going to do bonding, it is going to be solid bonding and it's solid investments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Great. Thank you very much. I'm done with my questions and Madam President, I think it's an

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exciting initiative. We've seen it before but this expands the scope of their involvement in expanding things in Hartford and doing, frankly, some very exciting things here. I just wanted to make sure that there is some sort of a limitation on what they're able to do if we run into any sort of headwinds. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise in strong support of the amendment before us and I want to recognize in particular Senator LeBeau for his hard work on this in bringing it before us and Governor Malloy and Ben Barnes, Secretary of OPM, Karen Buffkin from OPM, worked very closely with members of the Hartford delegation on this, Billy Bicaró from staff, Senate Dems.

Madam President, this is an exciting opportunity for the City of Hartford, the Town of East Hartford and the region. It may not have gotten much attention this Session compared to a lot of other initiatives, but I firmly believe that the opportunities embodied in this legislation will be identified for a long time to come as the impetus that began to reshape the City of Hartford, in particular, its downtown for years and years to come.

The objectives surrounding entertainment, which may get most of the attention in terms of the debate is a significant part of it whether it be sporting or otherwise, but the other opportunities of providing increased housing in Hartford, making the City a 24 hour City and not just a nine to five City is so important.

And this Governor has made this a critical part of his interest in the City of Hartford. He has mentioned this many, many times and he's backing it up with this legislation and we in the City are grateful for it.

And in addition to the changes that are being made

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here regarding the scope of the initiative in terms of the footprint of the initiative, it's also a collaborative effort between the municipal leaders in the City of Hartford and East Hartford in this effort. That's a big change from the previous iteration.

I think it goes, speaks strongly to the Governor's commitment to bring people together and address these issues.

So I want to say, Madam President, that it's an exciting opportunity. I look forward to working with the administration on this. I know Senator LeBeau does as well and folks throughout the region, and I strongly support the amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, all those in favor of the amendment please say Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The amendment passes. Will you remark on the bill? Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

I endorse the comments of Senator Fonfara. I think they are well said and if there's no objection, I'd like to move this bill to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection? Seeing no, there is an objection. We'll take a vote. Mr. Clerk, will you please announce the call for a roll call vote and the machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

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An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll
all has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

All the members have voted? If all members voted the machine will be closed and the Clerk will call a tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 22.
Total number voting 35
Necessary for adoption 18
Those voting Yea 34
Those voting Nay 1
Those absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar 356, Substitute for Senate Bill
Number 26 AN ACT CONCERNING DEADLINES FOR CONSENSUS
REVENUE ESTIMATES. Favorable Report of the Committee
on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator Daily. How are you today?

SENATOR DAILY:

Good afternoon, Madam President. I'm fine, thank you and you?

THE CHAIR:

Fine, thank you.

SENATOR DAILY:

Good. I move the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and seek leave to summarize.