



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 407

LCO No. 5950



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE NEW BRITAIN TO HARTFORD BUSWAY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 13b-15a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Transportation may designate the
4 [Hartford-New Britain] New Britain to Hartford busway project to be
5 accomplished on a total cost basis. If the commissioner designates the
6 [Hartford-New Britain] New Britain to Hartford busway project as a
7 total cost basis project, the commissioner may enter into a single
8 contract with a private developer, which includes such project
9 elements as engineering design and construction. The contract for said
10 project shall be based on competitive proposals received by the
11 commissioner, who shall give notice of the project and specifications
12 for the project, by advertising, at least once, in a newspaper having a
13 substantial circulation in the [Hartford-New Britain area] New Britain
14 and Hartford areas. Award of the total cost contract shall be based on
15 qualifications, technical merit of the proposals and cost. The
16 commissioner shall determine all criteria, requirements and conditions

17 for such proposals and award and shall have sole responsibility for all
18 other aspects of the contract. If applicable, the contract shall state
19 clearly the responsibilities of the developer to deliver a completed and
20 acceptable project on a date certain and the maximum cost of the
21 project.

22 (b) Prior to any expansion of the New Britain to Hartford busway,
23 the Commissioner of Transportation shall file a request for approval of
24 the proposed expansion plan with the clerks of the House of
25 Representatives and the Senate. The proposed expansion plan shall not
26 be implemented unless approved by the General Assembly. The
27 General Assembly may approve the proposed expansion plan by a
28 majority vote of each house or may reject the proposed expansion plan
29 by a majority vote of either house. If the General Assembly is in
30 session, the General Assembly shall vote to approve or reject the
31 proposed expansion plan not later than thirty days after the
32 commissioner files the proposed expansion plan with the clerks. If the
33 General Assembly is not in session when the request for approval is
34 filed, the clerks shall submit the proposed expansion plan to the
35 General Assembly not later than ten days after the first day of the next
36 regular session or a special session called for such purpose. The
37 proposed expansion plan shall be deemed rejected if the General
38 Assembly fails to vote to approve or reject the proposed expansion
39 plan not later than thirty days after the department files the request for
40 approval with the clerks. Such thirty-day period shall not begin or
41 expire unless the General Assembly is in regular session. If the regular
42 session adjourns prior to such thirtieth day and the proposed
43 expansion plan has not been acted upon, the request for approval shall
44 be deemed filed on the first day of the next regular session. For the
45 purposes of this subsection, any request for approval of a proposed
46 expansion plan filed with the clerks within thirty days before the
47 commencement of a regular session of the General Assembly shall be
48 deemed to be filed on the first day of such session.

49 (c) Not later than July 1, 2020, and biannually thereafter, the

50 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report, in accordance
51 with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General
52 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation
53 concerning the operation of the New Britain to Hartford busway. The
54 report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:
55 The number of passengers, the fare revenue generated per passenger
56 and the cost of operation and maintenance. The first report submitted
57 pursuant to this subsection shall include, but not be limited to, such
58 information on a monthly basis since the New Britain to Hartford
59 busway commenced operations.

60 Sec. 2. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 13b-79p of the
61 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
62 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

63 (2) Implementing the [New Britain-Hartford] New Britain to
64 Hartford busway, subject to the availability of federal funds and the
65 provisions of subsection (b) of section 13b-15a, as amended by this act,
66 and ensuring that all streets in the city of Hartford intersecting with
67 said busway are equipped with sufficient signage, gates, traffic lights
68 and other equipment to provide (A) that all such streets remain open
69 to vehicular and pedestrian traffic for not less than twenty hours per
70 day, and (B) safe passage across any such street by trains at any time;

71 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 13a-123 of the general statutes is
72 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
73 *passage*):

74 (e) The following types of signs, displays and devices may, with the
75 approval of and subject to regulations adopted by the commissioner,
76 be permitted within the six-hundred-sixty-foot area of interstate,
77 primary and other limited access state highways, except as prohibited
78 by state statute, local ordinance or zoning regulation: (1) Directional
79 and other official signs or notices, which signs and notices shall
80 include, but not be limited to, signs and notices pertaining to natural
81 wonders and scenic and historical attractions which are required or

82 authorized by law; (2) signs, displays and devices advertising the sale
83 or lease of the property upon which they are located; (3) signs, displays
84 and devices advertising activities conducted on the property on which
85 they are located; (4) signs, displays or advertising devices which are in
86 place for sixty days or less; and (5) advertising signs, displays or
87 devices (A) located or erected on real property or abutting real
88 property within areas owned, leased or managed by a public authority
89 for the purpose of (i) railway or rail infrastructure facilities, including,
90 but not limited to, associated structures located within areas zoned
91 solely or predominantly for the development of a railway or rail
92 infrastructure facilities, (ii) bus rapid transit corridors, including, but
93 not limited to, the [Hartford-New Britain] New Britain to Hartford
94 busway project authorized in section 13b-15a, as amended by this act,
95 and any shelter, structure or other facility associated with the
96 operation of such bus rapid transit corridor, (iii) airport development
97 zones designated in section 32-75d, or (iv) any other similar transit or
98 freight purpose, or (B) upon or within buildings, structures or other
99 venues in the custody or control of the state and designed, operated or
100 intended to be operated for the purpose of presenting athletic, artistic,
101 musical or other entertainment events. Subject to regulations adopted
102 by the commissioner and except as prohibited by state statute, local
103 ordinance or zoning regulation signs, displays and devices may be
104 erected and maintained within six hundred sixty feet of primary and
105 other limited access state highways in areas which are zoned for
106 industrial or commercial use under authority of law or located in
107 unzoned commercial or industrial areas which areas shall be
108 determined from actual land uses and defined by regulations of the
109 commissioner. The regulations of the commissioner in regard to size,
110 spacing and lighting shall apply to any segments of the interstate
111 system which traverse commercial or industrial zones wherein the use
112 of real property adjacent to the interstate system is subject to municipal
113 regulation or control, or which traverse other areas where the land use,
114 as of September 21, 1959, was clearly established under state law as
115 industrial or commercial.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	13b-15a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	13b-79p(a)(2)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	13a-123(e)

Statement of Purpose:

To increase transparency regarding the utilization, revenue and costs of the New Britain to Hartford busway by requiring legislative approval prior to any expansion of such busway and the submission of biannual reports.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.; SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.
REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.

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