

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5577 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT AMENDING A CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF LAND TO THE

Title: TOWN OF SOMERS.

Vote Date: 4/6/2026

Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE Substitute

PH Date: 4/1/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Kissel, Rep. Vail

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill amends a prior conveyance transferring a roughly 3-acre state owned parcel in Somers to the town by reducing the cost from fair market value to only administrative expenses, adding a restriction that the land must be used solely for public safety purposes, and making technical corrections to the property description. This bill also requires the state to retain an easement for a fire department staging area, while maintaining existing provisions that the transfer is subject to State Properties Review Board approval.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

JFS language adds standard reverter language and provides that DAS will do the conveyance on behalf of DOC.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Michelle Gilman, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services \(DAS\):](#) Offered general comments, recommending technical and clarifying changes to ensure DAS is properly designated to facilitate the conveyances, that transfers are conducted at administrative cost, and that statutory language clearly outlines use restrictions, reversion conditions, and oversight by the State Properties Review Board to maintain consistency with state property procedures.

[Joshua Wojcik, Acting Secretary, Office of Policy and Management \(OPM\)](#): Testified in opposition as drafted, stating the bill lacks required safeguards for state property. He requested inclusion of standard reverter language to ensure the land remains in public use and reverts to the state if conditions are not met, as well as technical edits to clarify DAS's role and maintain consistency with established state conveyance policies and asset protection practices.

[Angel Quiros, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Correction \(DOC\)](#): Testified in support of the bill, stating the bill would allow the Town of Somers to use the parcel for a public safety communications tower, improving radio coverage and emergency response for nearby correctional facilities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[John A. Kissel, State Senator](#): Testified in support, stating the bill would amend a prior conveyance to allow the Town of Somers to use the parcel for a public safety communications tower, improving emergency response, strengthening coordination with nearby correctional facilities, and enhancing communication reliability for first responders while supporting overall public safety infrastructure.

[Timothy Keeney, First Selectman, Town of Somers](#): Testified in support of the bill, requesting amendments to allow the town to acquire the parcel without paying fair market value and instead include a public safety use restriction with a reverter clause, enabling construction of a communications tower to improve emergency response.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

GENERAL COMMENTS:

[Anonymous 8 and 10](#): Left general comments.

**Reported by: Clerk- Greg Wolff
Assistant Clerk- Mike Hamann**

Date: 4/9/26