Commerce Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-134 / Bill Status / Public Hearing Testimony
Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE IN THE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE.
Vote Date: 3/5/2026
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/17/2026
File No.: 52

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To require the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Development (DECD) to establish a second airport development zone (ADZ) in the town of Plainville.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Department of Economic and Community Development, Commissioner, Daniel O'Keefe submits testimony in support of this bill. O'Keefe explains that there is a preexisting section (32-75d) of the Connecticut General Statues that already establishes an airport development zone in the towns of Windsor Locks, Suffield, East Granby, and Windsor. As a result, DECD supports the creation of a second airport development zone for the town of Plainville.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Town of Plainville, Director of Economic Development, Cal Hauburger is in support of this bill, citing that the implementation of an Airport Development Zone (ADZ) in the outlined census blocks, will improve the conditions and operations for aviation related services. Hauburger notes, that Robertson Airport has proven to be an economic benefit for Plainville, attracting businesses such as Element119 due to their interest in the aviation sector, and he believes that with the creation of an ADZ in Plainville, many more will follow.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Eastern Regional, Sean Collins writes in support of this bill, stating that smaller, noncommercial airports also known as General

aviation (GA) airports, can attract business to the region they exist within. These airports are typically utilized for private and business aviation, including flight training, agricultural aviation, recreational flying, and emergency response altogether making the creation of this airport beneficial in a variety of ways, in turn, creating opportunities for economic growth in the areas they occupy.

Element 119 LLC, President, Andrew Zeppa writes in strong support for the establishment of an Airport Development Zone (ADZ) in the Town of Plainville, CT. Element119, a manufacturing business resides in close proximity to Robertson Airport. Zeppa, explains that this bill will reduce any financial limitations in the expansion of Element119, allowing for the business to grow, and for the strengthening of the local economy.

Felecia White supports this bill, stating that an airport closer in proximity to Bridgeport will be beneficial for commercial travel.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No oppositional testimony has been submitted.

Reported by: Enumaah Dadzie, Assistant Clerk Date: 3/16/2026