

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-448 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF
Title: HARTFORD COUNTY.

Vote Date: 3/13/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/11/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill updates MDC governance and operations by expanding voting eligibility, easing publication and residency rules, and increasing fines and bidding thresholds. It also revises financial and infrastructure provisions, including revenue calculations, sewer charge deferrals, and lien filing timelines.

The reason for this bill is to make substantial changes to the Charter of the Metropolitan District of Hartford County in several different areas.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

This substitute makes various revisions to Sec. 7, concerning the calculation of proportional taxes laid by the district on member municipalities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Metropolitan District, District Council, Christopher R. Stone, supports SB 448 as it makes it so the chair of the committee must be a member of that committee, creates consistency with public notice options, technical corrections, making violations of MDC ordinances more consistent with authority that is afforded to other cities and towns, increases

public bid threshold to better reflect current situations, gives incentive for towns to submit its annual audit although the MDC suggests language be changed to show it is not punitive, and allows property owners to amortize sewer connection charges over an additional 5 years, which would be more affordable, and increases the amount of days the MDC has to file assessment caveats for land records.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Metropolitan District Commission, Commissioner, Andrew Adil opposes SB 448, as they feel by letting District Council to live outside member towns due to the role requiring constant local involvement which cannot be done should the District Council lives outside member towns and living in required member towns ensures accessibility, responsiveness, and familiarity.

Anonymous opposes SB 448 due to the bill allowing for only 10 days of public inspection for proposed ordinances.

Anonymous opposes SB 448 due to objections to language in section 4.

Anonymous Hartford Resident opposes SB 448 due to objections in section 4 and 8, specifically about the increased fines and lack of benefits to towns.

Board of Commissioners, MDC, Member, Alvin E. Taylor, opposes SB 448 as the District Council requires an ongoing connection to a local area to properly serve the public.

Board of Commissioners, MDC, Member, Pasquale Salemi opposes SB 448 as they feel a familiarity with not only the local area but also the law is needed for the MDC to effectively work in their community and assures a level of accountability.

Representative, 6th Assembly District, James Sanchez: opposes SB 448 as the Metropolitan District Commission is a vital service to residents and should have leadership connected to the communities they serve. The importance of residency is shown by the leadership also being affected by policy, understanding the local area, commitment towards long term sustainability, protecting local representation, preserving local governance, strengthening emergency awareness and infrastructure response, and maintaining consistency with other public service expectations.

Reported by: Giovanni DeSantis

Date: 3/16/26