



***Making Great Communities Happen***

**Connecticut Chapter of the  
American Planning Association**

**2019 Legislative Summary**

- [PA 19-143](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL CULTURAL DISTRICTS. Authorizes municipalities to adopt cultural districts for marketing arts and culture attractions, encouraging artists and artistic and cultural enterprises, and promoting tourism.
- [PA 19-156](#) AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE BOARDING OF CATS AND DOGS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN A LICENSE TO OPERATE A COMMERCIAL KENNEL. This bill exempts people who board up to three dogs or cats in their residence from having to obtain a commercial kennel license from the Department of Agriculture (DoAg). Current law requires all commercial kennel operators to obtain a license.
- [PA 19-163](#) AN ACT ACCELERATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF 5G WIRELESS FACILITIES. This bill establishes a Council on 5G Technology and tasks it with (1) reviewing wireless carriers' requests to place personal wireless service facilities and small wireless facilities on state-owned real property and (2) determining which state-owned properties may be made available to the wireless carriers for these facilities. The bill also requires OPM, in consultation with PURA and the Siting Council, to work with municipalities to establish a process for siting small wireless facilities on municipal property and, when using utility or light poles is insufficient, private property with the property owner's permission.
- [PA 19-175](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF LAND BANK AUTHORITIES. Authorizes municipalities, either on their own or jointly with other municipalities, to create nonprofit land bank authorities to acquire, maintain, and dispose of real property, except for brownfields (brownfield land banks are authorized by CGA 32-771).
- [PA 19-92](#) AN ACT CONCERNING ABANDONED AND BLIGHTED PROPERTY CONSERVATORSHIP. Allows the Superior Court to appoint a receiver to make improvements to a property when the owner fails to maintain it in accordance with applicable municipal codes. Lienholders and individuals and entities with development capacity may seek to be appointed as the receiver and, once appointed, are granted extensive powers to rehabilitate the property pursuant to a court-approved plan. Applies to municipalities of at least 35,000.
- [HJ 171](#) RESOLUTION APPROVING THE STATE WATER PLAN
- [PA 19-77](#) AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL RESILIENCY RESERVE FUNDS. Authorizes municipalities to establish reserve funds that can be used to fund payments for property losses and land acquisitions due to climate change.

[PA 19-54](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING OPPORTUNITY ZONES. Requires DECD to conduct various outreach efforts (§§ 6 & 7), allows opportunity zone projects to receive assistance from DECD's Office of the Permit Ombudsman, and designates DECD's deputy commissioner as the state's primary point of contact for all state programs relating to opportunity zones (§ 1). Funding: the act requires that qualifying projects in opportunity zones be given preference for the state historic structure rehabilitation tax credit's 30% credit, urban and industrial site reinvestment tax credits, and state financial assistance for brownfield remediation (§§ 12 & 13).

[PA 19-117](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET. Budget bill includes language creating the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority (MRDA) as a quasi-public agency to, among other things, stimulate economic and transit-oriented development. The bill authorizes MRDA to develop property and manage facilities in development districts encompassing the areas around transit stations and downtowns. Under the bill, and with certain exceptions, members are: 1) municipalities classified by OPM as a designated Tier III or IV municipality (i.e., fiscally distressed municipalities subject to the Municipal Accountability Review Board's oversight), 2) municipalities or two or more municipalities (jointly) with a population of at least 70,000 if their legislative bodies approve membership. *CCAPA testified on the [proposed bill](#).*



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