



**House Bill 5577: AN ACT AMENDING A CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF LAND TO THE TOWN OF SOMERS**

**House Bill 5578: AN ACT AMENDING A CONVEYANCE OF A PARCEL OF STATE LAND TO THE CHESPROCOTT HEALTH DISTRICT.**

**Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services**

**Government Oversight Committee**

**April 1, 2026**

Senator Gadkar-Wilcox, Representative Dathan, Senator Sampson, Representative Carney, and distinguished members of the Government Oversight Committee. I am Michelle Gilman, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **House Bill 5577: An Act Amending a Conveyance of a Parcel of Land to the Town of Somers**, and **House Bill 5578: An Act Amending a Conveyance of a Parcel of State Land to the Chesprocott Health District**.

While the department is neutral on conveyances, we ask that the following language be included if it is the legislature's desire to have DAS facilitate the transfer on behalf of our sister agency:

**Proposed Language House Bill 5577:**

Section 1. Special act 24-13 is amended to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Commissioner of **Administrative Services [Correction]** shall, **on behalf of the Commissioner of Correction**, convey to the town of Somers a parcel of land located in the town of Somers [, at a cost equal to the fair market value of the property, as determined by the average of the appraisals of two independent appraisers selected by the commissioner, plus] **for** the administrative costs of making such conveyance. Said parcel of land has an area of approximately 3 acres and is described as follows: Beginning at a point located on the westerly side of Bilton Road and at the northeasterly corner of land now or



formerly of the State of Connecticut located at 264 Bilton Road, said point being the northeasterly corner of the parcel described in this section; thence running S17°45'33"W a distance of 250.00 feet along the westerly street line of Bilton Road; thence running [S75°36'40"E] N75°36'40"W a distance of 468.90 feet; thence running N06°25'03"W a distance of 266.98 feet; thence running S75°36'40"E a distance of [578.44] 561.03 feet along the southerly line of land now or formerly of Bushnell located at 166 Bilton Road to the point and place of the beginning. The conveyance shall be subject to the approval of the State Properties Review Board.

(b) The deed or instrument of conveyance to the town of Somers shall contain a restriction that prohibits the town of Somers from using said parcel for any purpose other than public safety.

~~[(b)]~~ (c) The Commissioner of Correction shall retain an easement for purposes of a fire department staging area on said parcel of land.

~~[(c)]~~ (d) The State Properties Review Board shall complete its review of the conveyance of said parcel of land not later than thirty days after it receives a proposed agreement from the Department of Administrative Services [Correction]. The land shall remain under the care and control of the Department of Correction [said department] until a conveyance is made in accordance with the provisions of this section. The State Treasurer shall execute and deliver any deed or instrument necessary for a conveyance under this section, which deed or instrument shall include provisions to carry out the purposes of ~~[subsection (b)]~~ subsections (b) and (c) of this section. The Commissioner of Administrative Services [Correction] shall have the sole responsibility for all other incidents of such conveyance.

**Proposed Language House Bill 5578:**

Section 1. Special act 22-18 is amended to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Administrative Services [Correction] shall, on behalf of the Commissioner of Correction, convey to the Chesprocott Health District a parcel of land located in the town of Cheshire, at a cost equal to the administrative costs of making such conveyance. Said parcel of land has an area of approximately 2 acres and is identified as a portion of the approximately 166.95 acre parcel containing the



Cheshire Correctional Institute, a portion of Block 57 on Town of Cheshire Tax Assessor's Map 36, and adjoining the parcel conveyed pursuant to section 2 of special act 14-23. The conveyance shall be subject to the approval of the State Properties Review Board.

(b) The Chesprocott Health District shall use said parcel of land for purposes of building a regional health district, including to house Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region No. 2 and emergency support function No. 8, public health and medical services. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the health district may (1) permit a nonprofit organization to use said parcel of land, or a portion of said parcel, for the provision of temporary housing, or (2) convey said parcel, or a portion of said parcel, to a nonprofit organization for the provision of temporary housing. If the health district [:

(1) Does] does not use said parcel for, [said purposes;] any of these purposes set forth in this subsection,

[(2) Does not retain ownership of all of said parcel; or

(3) Leases all or any portion of said parcel,]

the parcel shall revert to the state of Connecticut.

(c) The State Properties Review Board shall complete its review of the conveyance of said parcel of land not later than thirty days after it receives a proposed agreement from the Department of Administrative Services [Correction]. The land shall remain under the care and control of the Department of Correction [said department] until a conveyance is made in accordance with the provisions of this section. The State Treasurer shall execute and deliver any deed or instrument necessary for a conveyance under this section, which deed or instrument shall include provisions to carry out the purposes of subsection (b) of this section. The Commissioner of Administrative Services [Correction] shall have the sole responsibility for all other incidents of such conveyance.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts, and we are happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.