

To: The Honorable Bristol Town Council  
From: Representative June Speakman  
Regarding: Resolution No. 2024-5-29-FF1  
Date: July 24, 2024

Along with the four other members of the Bristol delegation, I have received this resolution from you regarding a bill that was passed by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. That bill is H7983B, sponsored by Rep. Cruz, and S2990A by Sen. Ciccone.

The House bill passed as follows: 54 aye, 5 nay, 16 not voting. Reps. Donovan and Speakman voted aye. The Senate bill passed 37 aye and 1 nay. Senators Lauria and Ujifusa voted aye, and Sen. Felag was the lone nay. The Governor signed the bill on June 25, 2024.

Many of the concerns raised in the resolution are not in the final bill, so I thought it important to share with you what the bill does and does not do.

First ‘whereas:’ The law does **not** create an Office of the State Building Commissioner. That office was created in 1974 and the State Building Code was adopted in 1977. This is a statewide code applicable in all municipalities.

Second ‘whereas:’ the act does broaden the State Building Commissioner’s authority to enforce the building code from just buildings under the jurisdiction of the state to “enforce all provisions of the general laws and public laws as such powers and duties relate to building codes and building inspections.

The act seeks to “work to standardize building code interpretations across the state, with input from the League of Cities and Towns and ensure consistent enforcement of the code throughout the state.”

The act provides that the state building code commissioner shall act as a municipal building official *where there is no building official or building inspector*.

The act provides for a training program for all building inspectors and officials, with input from the League, to ensure consistent implementation of the uniform building codes.

The act does **not**—in the words of the resolution—“assign control over local building decisions” to the state building official.

The goal of this bill is to remove obstacles to building housing that may exist due to the lack of a building official or to different interpretations of the plain language of the Code from one municipality to the next.

Should you become aware of the intrusion by the State Building Official into matters that you deem to be legitimately in the purview of the municipality, please let me know, and we will work to clarify the statute.