



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 6742**

LCO No. 3356



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR COMMERCIAL RAIL FREIGHT LINE IMPROVEMENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 13b-236 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the  
4 State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to  
5 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in  
6 principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [seventeen million  
7 five hundred thousand] twenty million dollars.

8 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount  
9 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department  
10 of Transportation for a program of competitive grants for commercial  
11 rail freight lines operating in the state for improvements and repairs to,  
12 and the modernization of, existing rail, rail beds and related facilities.  
13 Such program shall include the following: (1) (A) Grants of one hundred  
14 per cent of the amount necessary to improve, repair or modernize state-  
15 owned rights of way, and (B) grants of seventy per cent of the amount

16 necessary to improve, repair or modernize privately owned rail lines,  
17 provided the commissioner may waive the requirement for a thirty per  
18 cent matching grant if such improvement, repair or modernization  
19 demonstrably increases rail freight traffic; and (2) preference for grants  
20 shall be given to (A) proposals that are on the Department of  
21 Transportation's list of freight rail projects eligible to receive funds  
22 pursuant to [P.L. 111-5,] the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
23 of 2009, P.L. 111-5, (B) freight rail projects that improve at-grade rail  
24 crossings to eliminate hazards or increase safety, (C) freight rail projects  
25 that provide connection to major freight generators, (D) projects that  
26 further the goals and objectives of the Department of Transportation's  
27 Connecticut State Rail Plan, and (E) freight rail projects that improve  
28 freight rail infrastructure by increasing the capacity for rail freight  
29 traffic.

30 (c) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power  
31 granted thereby, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this  
32 section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by  
33 the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary  
34 notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any  
35 such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section  
36 3-20 and from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such  
37 time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as  
38 may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the  
39 State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds  
40 shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond  
41 Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such  
42 authorization which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the  
43 Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions  
44 as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued  
45 pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the  
46 full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the  
47 payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same  
48 become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with  
49 the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for

50 punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and  
51 the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same  
52 become due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	13b-236

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase the amount of bond funds available for grants for commercial rail line improvements.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*