



The Metropolitan District
water supply · environmental services · geographic information

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024
5:00 PM**

Location

Board Room
District Headquarters
555 Main Street, Hartford

Dial in #: (415)-655-0001
Access Code: 2316 942 9660#

[Meeting Video Link](#)

Commissioners

Anderson	Gardow
Avedisian	Healy
Bazzano (C)	Holloway
Buell (VC)	Magnan
Clarke	Torres
Currey (Ex-Officio)	Woulfe

Quorum: 6

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 31, 2024
4. DISCUSSION RE: HOUSE BILL 5444 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM”
5. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
6. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
7. ADJOURNMENT



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5444

LCO No. 2659



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) (1) There is established a
2 test bed technologies advisory board, which shall, within available
3 appropriations, meet not less than twice a year to undertake the
4 advisory board's powers and duties pursuant to this section. The
5 advisory board shall be an independent body within the Office of Policy
6 and Management for administrative purposes only. The advisory board
7 shall consist of the following members, who shall have experience
8 working in private sector businesses or in state agencies: (A) One
9 appointed by the Governor; (B) one appointed by the Secretary of the
10 Office of Policy and Management; (C) one appointed by the Treasurer;
11 and (D) one appointed by the Comptroller.

12 (2) If, in the exercise of the advisory board's powers and duties
13 pursuant to this section, the advisory board finds that (A) the use of a
14 certain technology, product or process would promote operational cost
15 reduction, and (B) the use of such technology, product or process would
16 be feasible in the operations of a state agency and would not have any

17 detrimental effect on such operations, the advisory board shall
18 recommend that such agency undertake a pilot test program during
19 which such agency shall use such technology, product or process in the
20 operations of such agency on a temporary basis. The purpose of such
21 pilot test program shall be to validate the effectiveness of such
22 technology, product or process in reducing operational costs.

23 (3) The advisory board shall not recommend a pilot test program by
24 a state agency for any such technology, product or process unless the
25 business that manufactures or markets the technology, product or
26 process demonstrates that (1) the use of such technology, product or
27 process by such agency will not adversely affect safety, (2) the
28 technology, product or process is presently available for commercial
29 sale and distribution or has potential for commercialization not later
30 than two years following the completion of such pilot test program by
31 such agency pursuant to this section, and (3) such technology, product
32 or process was not developed by a business that is eligible to participate
33 in the test program established pursuant to section 32-39e of the general
34 statutes.

35 (b) (1) The commissioner of each state agency shall administer pilot
36 test programs at state agencies for the use of technologies, products or
37 processes that promote operational cost reduction. The purpose of such
38 pilot test programs shall be to validate the effectiveness of such
39 technologies, products or processes in reducing operational costs.

40 (2) (A) An applicant interested in participating in such a program
41 shall submit an application to the commissioner of the state agency that
42 administers such program.

43 (B) Each applicant shall pay to the Office of Policy and Management
44 a fee of five thousand dollars for each application, at the time of making
45 such application.

46 (C) Such application shall include an assessment of the potential
47 viability of a pilot test program of such technology, product or process
48 at such agency conducted by an independent consulting firm or a

49 market research firm that specializes in market research for similar
50 technologies, products or processes.

51 (D) Such commissioner shall review such application for
52 completeness not later than thirty days after receipt of such application.

53 (E) Not later than ninety days after receipt of such application, such
54 commissioner shall determine whether to file a request to the advisory
55 board for a recommendation to test any such technology, product or
56 process that is the subject of such application. Any such request shall
57 include the assessment that such applicant submitted pursuant to
58 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision.

59 (c) Not later than thirty days after receipt of any request filed by the
60 commissioner of a state agency pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection
61 (b) of this section, the advisory board shall evaluate any technology,
62 product or process that is the subject of such request and make a
63 recommendation pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this
64 section.

65 (d) If the advisory board recommends that a state agency undertake
66 a pilot test program, such agency, notwithstanding the requirements of
67 chapter 58 of the general statutes, shall accept delivery of such
68 technology, product or process and undertake such a pilot test program
69 during which such agency shall use such technology, product or process
70 in the operations of such agency on a temporary basis. The duration of
71 such pilot test program shall be not less than thirty days and not more
72 than sixty days.

73 (e) Any costs associated with the acquisition and use of such
74 technology, product or process by a state agency for a pilot test program
75 pursuant to this section shall be borne by the applicant. The acquisition
76 of any technology, product or process for a pilot test program pursuant
77 to this section shall not be deemed to be a purchase under the provisions
78 of state procurement law. The applicant shall maintain records related
79 to any such pilot test program, as required by the advisory board. All
80 proprietary information derived from such test program shall be

81 exempt from the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-210 of the
82 general statutes.

83 (f) If the commissioner of the state agency that tested such
84 technology, product or process determines that the pilot test program
85 sufficiently demonstrates that the technology, product or process
86 promotes operational cost reduction, such testing agency may request
87 that the Commissioner of Administrative Services (1) procure such
88 technology for use by such state agency, and (2) make such procurement
89 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4a-58 of the general statutes. If the
90 Commissioner of Administrative Services grants a request to procure
91 such technology for any state agency, the Commissioner of
92 Administrative Services shall make information regarding such
93 procurement available to all state agencies on the Internet web site of
94 the Department of Administrative Services.

95 (g) The commissioner of a state agency may identify a technology,
96 product or process that is procured, installed and tested by a
97 municipality that promotes operational cost reduction. Such
98 commissioner may file a request to the advisory board for a
99 recommendation to test such technology, product or process. Not later
100 than thirty days after receipt of such request, the advisory board shall
101 evaluate the technology, product or process and make a
102 recommendation pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this
103 section. If the advisory board recommends such technology, product or
104 process, such agency shall undertake a pilot test program in accordance
105 with the provisions of subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of this section.

106 (h) Any fees collected by the Office of Policy and Management under
107 this section shall be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the
108 General Fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To facilitate the consideration of cost-saving technology by evaluating and testing the technologies at state agencies.

[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.]

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Present: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Jean Holloway, Calixto Torres and District Chairman Donald Currey (9)

Absent: Commissioner Maureen Magnan (1)

Also

Present: Commissioner Allen Hoffman
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Commissioner Alvin Taylor
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer (Remote Attendance)
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant (Remote Attendance)
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

District Counsel Christopher Stone called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Buell and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 4, 2023 were approved. Commissioner Torres abstained.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

District Counsel Christopher Stone called for the election of the Chairperson. Commissioner Woulfe placed Commissioner John Bazzano's name in nomination, the nomination was duly seconded.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Commissioner Bazzano was elected Chairperson of the Committee on MDC Government for 2024 and 2025 by unanimous vote of those present. Chairperson Bazzano assumed the Chair and thanked the Committee on MDC Government.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Bazzano called for the election of the Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Healy placed commissioner Avery Buell's name in nomination and the nomination was duly seconded.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Commissioner Avery Buell was elected Vice Chairperson of the Committee on MDC Government for 2024 and 2025.

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 31, 2024

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), SJB Strategies, LLC (Attorney Steve Bonafonte), and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC on the federal level. On the federal level, we have been working with our Congressional delegation on an amendment to federal infrastructure legislation that would terminate our agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers relating to the Colebrook River Reservoir, consistent with the granting of source abandonment application by the State Department of Public Health. The importance of this federal initiative cannot be understated, and staff suggest that SJB Strategies, LLC devote its time exclusively to its federal lobbying effort, and that another firm, namely Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, be added during the state legislative session to assist at the state level. Based upon this suggestion, and in recognition of the past performance of our existing lobbyist, District staff recommends the reappointment of each of our existing firms for the 2024 state and federal legislative consultants, and addition of Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC. The term of the appointments of existing firms would be from January 1, 2024 through December 31,

2024, and as to Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, from February 6, 2024 to May, 2024, all subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. receive \$69,000.00, (2) Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC receive \$14,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$66,000.00.

On the Federal level, District staff recommends the reappointment of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies LLC as federal legislative consultants. In the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for federal legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Squire Patton Boggs receive \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$95,000.00.

It is therefore recommended that it be:

Voted: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

Resolved: That the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC shall be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and the firm of Levin, Paolino, and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, shall be retained for the period from February 6, 2024 through May, 2024. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC will receive \$14,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, all subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel, may specify.

Further

Resolved: That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2024 and terminating on December 31, 2024. Squire Patton Boggs will receive \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$95,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. J. L.", is written below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present. District Chairman Currey abstained due to a potential conflict of interest.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval