



**Testimony**  
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**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**  
**Before the Planning & Development Committee**  
**March 13, 2024**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) appreciates the opportunity to comment in ***opposition*** to **HB-5474 - AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPAL REPORTS CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL TO THE OFFICE OF RESPONSIBLE GROWTH.**

This bill imposes a duplicative reporting requirement on municipalities to submit data to the state concerning residential building permit applications submitted, approved, and denied by such municipality.

Public Act 23-204 requires municipalities, by March 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, to report to the state Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) on 1) the number of new dwelling units permitted in such municipality, including specifying how many new dwelling units are located within single family, two-to-four family and more than four family homes; and 2) the number of dwelling units demolished in such municipality.

In addition, the Act required municipalities to report data for 2018-2022 to DECD by December 31, 2023. DECD has indicated that 100% of the state's municipalities complied with this mandate in a timely manner.

Moreover, DECD has already been compiling municipal data on housing and demolition permits which is posted on its [website](#). In addition, for \$315 per year, a state agency may subscribe to the [Commercial Record](#) and receive weekly updates on housing permits and real estate trends.

Given the number of state statutes that require municipalities to report data to them, municipal reporting requirements are becoming increasingly burdensome. Before a new reporting requirement is imposed on municipalities, lawmakers should consider whether legislation creates duplicative or overlapping reporting requirements with little added benefit to the state or the public and whether such data is readily available from other sources.

Accordingly, COST urges opposition to the bill.