



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1257

LCO No. 4177

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:

(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall segregate (1) one
4 and one-half per cent of the gross receipts from sales within the
5 meaning of subdivision (h) of subsection (2) of section 12-407 by any
6 hotel or lodging house located in any municipality having a
7 population of less than sixty-five thousand, (2) three and one-half per
8 cent of the gross receipts from such sales in any municipality having a
9 population of sixty-five thousand or more but less than seventy-five
10 thousand, and (3) four and one-half per cent of the gross receipts from
11 such sales in any municipality having a population of seventy-five
12 thousand or more, provided the commissioner shall segregate three
13 and one-half per cent of the gross receipts from such sales in the
14 municipality having the most popular tourist attraction in the state, as
15 determined by the Office of Tourism, if such municipality has a
16 population of less than sixty-five thousand. Such segregated funds
17 shall be allocated to tourism districts established under section 32-302

18 as follows: The portion of the funds attributable to such tax receipts in
19 a municipality shall be allocated to the tourism district in which the
20 municipality is located, provided (A) ninety per cent of the amount
21 attributable to such gross receipts from sales in Hartford shall be
22 allocated to the Capital City Economic Development Authority and ten
23 per cent of the amount attributable to such gross receipts from sales in
24 Hartford shall be allocated to the Greater Hartford Arts Council, (B)
25 seventy-five per cent of the amount attributable to such gross receipts
26 from sales in New Haven shall be allocated to the New Haven
27 Coliseum Authority, (C) seventy-five per cent of the amount
28 attributable to such gross receipts from sales in Stamford shall be
29 allocated to the Stamford Center for the Arts, (D) seventy-five per cent
30 of the amount attributable to such gross receipts from sales in Norwalk
31 shall be allocated to the Maritime Center Authority, and (E) seventy-
32 five per cent of the amount attributable to such gross receipts from
33 sales in Bridgeport shall be allocated to the Greater Fairfield district
34 established in section 32-302, for the sole purpose of marketing tourist
35 attractions located in Bridgeport. If for any state fiscal year the amount
36 of the allocation under subparagraph (E) is less than the amount of
37 funds allocated during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, to the then
38 existing Bridgeport Convention and Visitors Bureau, pursuant to
39 sections 7-136b and 7-136c of the general statutes, revised to January 1,
40 1991, the Connecticut Tourism Council shall provide a grant under
41 section 32-300, from the tourism account, in the amount of such
42 difference, to said Greater Fairfield district for the purpose set forth in
43 subparagraph (E). Notwithstanding the provisions of this section,
44 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, the Commissioner of
45 Revenue Services shall segregate one hundred fifty thousand dollars
46 from any increase in receipts of such amount segregated under this
47 section during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, and shall allocate
48 such segregated amount to the Connecticut Film, Video and Media
49 Office established under section 32-86a, provided the amount
50 segregated and allocated to any entity under this section is not less
51 than the amount segregated and allocated during the fiscal year

52 ending June 30, 1997. Not later than January 1, 1999, and annually
53 thereafter, each tourism district and each authority receiving funds
54 under this section shall submit to the Connecticut Tourism Council a
55 full audit of the books and accounts of the district or authority for the
56 preceding fiscal year at the same time that an audit is submitted to the
57 Office of Policy and Management under subsection (f) of section 32-
58 302. Each such audit shall be conducted by an independent certified
59 public accountant. The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall also
60 segregate an additional one million dollars of the sales tax receipts
61 from such sales in the state during each state fiscal year and allocate
62 such funds to the cultural heritage development account established
63 under section 10-373bb. The Commissioner of Revenue Services may
64 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
65 concerning accounting procedures necessary to carry out the purposes
66 of this section.

67 (b) In addition to the funds segregated pursuant to subsection (a) of
68 this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and annually
69 thereafter, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall segregate from
70 gross receipts from sales within the meaning of subparagraph (h) of
71 subdivision (2) of section 12-407, the following percentages: (1) .55 per
72 cent to the State Library; (2) .49 per cent to the Connecticut Historical
73 Commission; (3) .043 per cent to the Department of Higher Education;
74 and (4) .136 per cent to the Department of Economic and Community
75 Development.

76 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and each fiscal year
77 thereafter, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall allocate funds
78 segregated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section as follows:

79 (1) To the Connecticut Historical Commission for (A) matching
80 grants to preserve state historic structures, landmarks and
81 archaeological sites, not less than one million five hundred thousand
82 dollars; (B) the historic resource inventory, not less than fifty thousand
83 dollars; (C) operating support for small and medium-sized heritage

84 and preservation organizations, administered with the Connecticut
85 Humanities Council, not less than five hundred thousand dollars; (D)
86 grants for technical and planning assistance for the preservation of
87 historic structures and archaeological sites, administered with the
88 Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, not less than five hundred
89 thousand dollars; (E) matching grants to local heritage and
90 preservation organizations for short-term capital projects,
91 administered with the Connecticut Humanities Council, not less than
92 five hundred thousand dollars; (F) a grant to Amistad America, not
93 less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars; and (G) activities on the
94 Connecticut Freedom Trail, not less than one hundred thousand
95 dollars.

96 (2) To the State Library for (A) matching grants to preserve the
97 records of state and local government, not less than six hundred
98 thousand dollars; (B) the Connecticut Humanities Council to expand
99 matching grants of the Cultural Heritage Development Fund for local
100 heritage organizations as follows: (i) Matching grants to local heritage
101 organizations for short-term capital projects, administered with the
102 Connecticut Historical Commission, not less than five hundred
103 thousand dollars, (ii) additional matching grants to local heritage
104 organizations, not less than eight hundred thousand dollars, (iii)
105 enhancing heritage collaborative projects, not less than four hundred
106 thousand dollars, (iv) matching grants to local heritage organizations
107 to preserve their records, artifacts or collections, not less than three
108 hundred thousand dollars, (v) matching grants to local heritage
109 organizations for virtual tours, online exhibits and other museum-
110 based education online, not less than two hundred fifty thousand
111 dollars, (vi) matching grants to local heritage organizations to
112 strengthen museum-school collaboration, not less than two hundred
113 fifty thousand dollars, and (vii) professional development support for
114 historians and museum curators in the state, not less than one hundred
115 thousand dollars; (C) a grant to the Connecticut Historical Society to
116 strengthen heritage programs in schools, not less than one hundred
117 thousand dollars; and (D) grants to strengthen heritage programs in

118 the schools, administered with the Connecticut Historical Society, not
119 less than one hundred thousand dollars.

120 (3) To the Department of Economic and Community Development
121 for: (A) Challenge grants under section 32-300, not less than seven
122 hundred thousand dollars; and (B) grants to tourism districts so each
123 such district receives a minimum of at least two hundred thousand
124 dollars, not less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

125 (4) To the Department of Higher Education for: (A) The office of the
126 State Historian at The University of Connecticut, not less than one
127 hundred thousand dollars; (B) the office of the State Archeologist at
128 The University of Connecticut, not less than one hundred thousand
129 dollars; and (C) a program of tourism professional development at
130 Central Connecticut State University, not less than one hundred
131 thousand dollars.

132 (d) On or before October 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, each state
133 agency, department or institution allocated funds under subsection (b)
134 of this section shall submit a plan for proposed expenditures of such
135 funds to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
136 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of
137 state agencies and to the joint standing committee or committees of the
138 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to cultural
139 heritage. On and after October 1, 2002, the plan shall include a report
140 on expenditures for the previous year. Within ninety days of their
141 receipt of any such plan, the committee having cognizance of matters
142 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in
143 concurrence with the committee or committees having cognizance of
144 matters relating to cultural heritage, shall accept or modify the plan.
145 Disbursement of such funds shall be in accordance with subsections (b)
146 and (c) of this section as approved or modified by the committee for
147 the sole purpose of enhancing cultural heritage and tourism programs
148 in the state.

149 [(b)] (e) Except as provided by law, a tourism district, convention

150 center authority, coliseum authority or the Capital City Economic
151 Development Authority, as the case may be, may borrow money to
152 pay its obligations that cannot be paid at maturity out of current
153 revenue from such allocations, but shall not borrow a sum greater than
154 can be repaid out of the allocations anticipated during the year in
155 which the money is borrowed. The tourism district, convention center
156 authority or coliseum authority, as the case may be, may pledge its
157 securities to secure the repayment of any sum so borrowed.

158 [(c)] (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
159 section, if ninety days have elapsed since a plan for corrective action
160 has been filed for a tourism district under subsection (g) of section 4-
161 233 and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in
162 consultation with the Connecticut Tourism Council, finds that the plan
163 has not been implemented, the secretary shall notify the Commissioner
164 of Revenue Services who shall then segregate ten per cent of the
165 district's monthly disbursement of funds under subsection (a) of this
166 section and deposit such amount into a separate account each month
167 until the secretary finds that such plan is being implemented at which
168 time [he] the secretary shall inform said commissioner who shall then
169 disburse any funds accrued in the account to the district.

170 [(d)] (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, (1) the funds
171 segregated by the Commissioner of Revenue Services under subsection
172 (a) of this section that are attributable to a hotel opened, or to new
173 rooms added to an existing hotel, in the city of Hartford on or after
174 May 2, 2000, shall be allocated (A) ten per cent to the Greater Hartford
175 Arts Council, and (B) ninety per cent to the Capital City Economic
176 Development Authority to be used by the authority, among other
177 purposes, for start-up and operating expenses of, and a replacement
178 reserve for, the convention center, as defined in section 32-600, and (2)
179 commencing July 1, 2003, and continuing until such time as the Capital
180 City Economic Development Authority shall certify to the
181 Commissioner of Revenue Services that such an additional source of
182 revenue is no longer needed by the authority to meet current or

183 projected operating deficiencies of the convention center, fifty per cent
184 of the excess of (A) the funds segregated by the Commissioner of
185 Revenue Services each month under subsection (a) of this section that
186 are attributable to gross receipts from sales in the Greater Hartford
187 district established in section 32-302, exclusive of such amounts
188 otherwise allocated to the capital city economic development district
189 pursuant to this section, over (B) the average monthly amount
190 segregated and allocated to the Greater Hartford district under
191 subsection (a) of this section, exclusive of such amounts allocated to
192 the Capital City Economic Development Authority, during the fiscal
193 year ending June 30, 2000, shall be allocated to the Capital City
194 Economic Development Authority and used by the authority
195 exclusively to pay, or to fund an operating expense reserve account to
196 provide for the future payment of, start-up and operating expenses of
197 the convention center. In the event that at any time the Capital City
198 Economic Development Authority determines that amounts deposited
199 and then held in such operating expense reserve account pursuant to
200 this section are no longer needed to meet current or projected
201 operating deficiencies of the convention center, the authority shall
202 return such amounts to the Greater Hartford district for use in
203 accordance with its purposes.

204 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide additional funds for cultural and tourism activities in the state.

[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.]