



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 575

January Session, 2003

Substitute House Bill No. 5858

House of Representatives, April 29, 2003

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSOLIDATION OF TOURISM DISTRICTS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Connecticut Tourism
2 Council, established pursuant to section 32-301 of the general statutes,
3 shall develop a plan, in consultation with the executive directors of
4 each of the eleven tourism districts, established pursuant to subsection
5 (a) of section 32-302 of the general statutes, to consolidate the eleven
6 tourism districts.

7 (b) In developing the plan pursuant to subsection (a) of this section,
8 the Connecticut Tourism Council shall consider: (1) The value of
9 tourism to the economy of each new district; (2) the economic effect of
10 consolidation on the communities in each new district created as a
11 result of consolidation; (3) the ability of each new district to effectively
12 market tourism within the district and in the state; and (4) any other
13 matter it deems relevant. The plan shall include a strategy for

14 completing the consolidation of tourism districts by July 1, 2003.

15 (c) Not later than June 1, 2003, the Connecticut Tourism Council
16 shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to
17 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
18 cognizance of matters relating to commerce its plan for consolidation
19 of tourism districts, including proposals for legislative and regulatory
20 changes necessary to effect such plan.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

It is anticipated that any increase in the workload of the Connecticut Tourism Council due to development of a consolidation plan for the eleven tourism districts will be minimal and not result in an increase in expenditures.

The governor's recommended budget, HB 6548 and the revenue bill, SB 1037 eliminate the current funding mechanisms for the districts.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5858

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSOLIDATION OF TOURISM DISTRICTS

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Connecticut Tourism Council (CTC) to prepare a plan under which the state's 11 regional tourism districts must be consolidated by July 1, 2003. It must prepare the plan in consultation with the districts' executive directors and submit it to the Commerce Committee by June 1, 2003. The plan must provide a strategy for completing the consolidation by the July 1 deadline.

In developing the plan, the council must consider the following factors:

1. the value of tourism to each new district's economy,
2. how the consolidation would economically affect the communities comprising each new district,
3. the ability of each new district to market its tourist attractions within the district and the state, and
4. any other factor the council thinks is relevant.

The plan must include any legislative and regulatory changes needed to implement the consolidation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

On April 14, the House referred the bill to the Government Administration and Elections Committee. On April 23, that committee reported a substitute bill, eliminating (1) the requirement that the CTC consolidate the 11 districts into five by July 1, 2003 and (2) the

provision that the 11 districts would automatically be consolidated into five districts coterminous with the state's five congressional districts on that date if the CTC failed to do so.

Tourism Council

The council consists of state officials and representatives of the tourism districts and industry appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. Its duties include reviewing tourism marketing plans and district budgets, approving tourism promotion challenge grants, and submitting annual reports to the Commerce Committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 15 Nay 4

Government Administration and Elections

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 15 Nay 1