



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 269

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 507

Senate, March 25, 2004

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. LEBEAU of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM TRAIL.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-320e of the general statutes, as amended by
2 section 228 of public act 03-6 of the June 30 special session, is repealed
3 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The commission may provide an appropriate plaque or marker
5 at a cost, to be determined by the commission, to the recipient for
6 attachment to an historic structure or landmark identifying it as a
7 Connecticut historical landmark within the criteria adopted by the
8 commission and as identified through the state register of historic
9 places, if the owner agrees to display such plaque or marker in a
10 manner satisfactory to the commission. Any such plaque or marker
11 may be repossessed by the commission if the historic structure or
12 landmark is not maintained in a manner satisfactory to the
13 commission.

14 (b) The Connecticut Commission on Arts, Tourism, Culture, History
 15 and Film, established under section 210 of [this act] public act 03-6 of
 16 the June 30 special session, in [conjunction] consultation with the
 17 Amistad Committee, Inc., New Haven, shall establish a Freedom Trail
 18 [for the state of Connecticut which marks, with plaques, the sites
 19 related to minority history] and a program to recognize, document and
 20 mark sites in the state of Connecticut that are associated with the
 21 history and movement towards freedom of its African-American
 22 citizens, the Underground Railroad and the abolition of slavery. The
 23 commission and the Amistad Committee, Inc., of New Haven shall
 24 designate and mark the sites of the Freedom Trail. The Amistad
 25 Committee, Inc., of New Haven shall be responsible for the
 26 coordination and organization of the "September Freedom Trail
 27 Month". The commission shall establish a program to publicize the
 28 existence of the Freedom Trail and shall publish a brochure which
 29 indicates the location and history of the sites.

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

CE 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

The changes made in this legislation are technical and conforming to current practice and have no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 507

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM TRAIL

SUMMARY:

This bill specifically requires the Connecticut Commission on Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film (CATCHF) to recognize, document, and mark sites in Connecticut commemorating the abolition of slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the history and movement of African-American residents toward freedom. The commission must do this in consultation with the Amistad Committee, Inc. of New Haven.

The bill also requires these organizations to designate and mark the sites of the Freedom Trail. Current law requires CATCHF to establish a Freedom Trail related to minority history in conjunction with the Amistad Committee, Inc. of New Haven. The bill requires CATCHF to establish the trail in consultation with the committee and limits the purpose to commemorating African-American history.

The bill also makes the Amistad Committee, Inc. responsible for coordinating and organizing the September Freedom Trail Month.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

CATCHF

PA 03-6, June 30 Special Session established this 29-member commission and charged it with largely the same missions that were assigned to several commissions and offices that the act eliminated. These were the Arts, Historical, and Film commissions; Tourism Council and Tourism Office; and Film Office. The bill also requires the Connecticut Humanities Council and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, two nonprofit entities, to operate in conjunction with the commission for strategic planning and financial reporting purposes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0