



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Good afternoon to the Chairs of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee - Senator Fonfara and Rep. Rojas - ranking members Senator Witkos and Rep. Davis, Vice chairs and all members.

I wholeheartedly support Bill 6032 AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF MUNICIPAL RETENTION OF A PORTION OF THE REVENUE GENERATED BY THE SALES AND USE TAXES ON HOTELS AND LODGING HOUSES.

Enfield may soon be sandwiched between two competing casinos. MGM to the north and Tribal Winds Casino to our south in East Windsor. Enfield will be geographically in the middle of two casinos; making Enfield a prime spot to spend the night. Enfield can take advantage of our location to attract "Casino Tourism" within our town.

The proposed bill would direct that each Connecticut municipality receive an annual tourism incentive grant from the state in an amount equivalent to 50% of the revenue generated by hotels and bed & breakfasts in the municipality above and beyond the revenue generated from hotels and bed & breakfasts in the community in 2018. Since these payments are only payable in the event of incremental growth over the 2018 baseline, there is no potential for state revenue loss.

The new revenue realized from any growth would be shared equally between the state and the municipalities. This bill would assist municipalities with revenue diversification without any burden (and in fact a benefit) to the state. More importantly, it places no additional burden on consumers.

This financial incentive would encourage municipalities to promote it's hotels and lodging amenities. The Tourism Incentive Grant will accomplish so much with no new taxes, no increase in tax rates, no additional burden on hotel consumers and a revenue boost for our local hotels, state and municipalities.