

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6185

AN ACT EXPANDING THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL MARKETING AND

Title: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Vote Date: 3/19/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/14/2019

File No.: 338

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Lavielle
Rep. Simmons
Rep. Dathan, et. al.

REASONS FOR BILL:

H.B. 6185 will equip regional groups such as the "Fairfield Five", with matching incentives to market local businesses. The Fairfield five is comprised of representation from Fairfield, Greenwich, Norwalk, Stamford, and Westport; all located between major cities like New York, and Boston. The incentive program will aid in providing funds to the Fairfield Five to further market the cities' business endeavors involving tourism, technology, medicine, entertainment, and hospitality. Attracting a larger consumer, and investment population from neighboring states, boosting Connecticut's economy.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

- 1. Harry Rilling, Mayor, city of Norwalk:** stated the funding provided from the state, outlined in H.B. 6185 will be invested in the region's community development, and strengthen local business opportunities.
- 2. David Martin, Mayor, city of Stamford:** outlined the Fairfield five's current accomplishments and strengths, but believe they can benefit from, and reach their full

potential with the support of the commerce committee and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

- 3. Livvy Floren, State Representative, Connecticut General Assembly:** expressed the Fairfield Five's potential, and believes that although they are already well established in the economic development areas of technology, cyber security and more, they can greatly benefit from the incentive program outlined in H.B. 6185.
- 4. Jennifer Tooker, Second Selectwoman, Town of Westport:** introduced the Fairfield Five as a voluntary partnership to generate economic growth in Connecticut. Tooker supports H.B. 6185, expressing that it will help leverage the partnership and "bring it to the next level".
- 5. Gail Lavielle, State Representative, Connecticut General Assembly:** explains the Fairfield Five's goals are beneficial to the entire state of connecticut. Lavielle states Fairfield county makes up 45% of the state's tax revenues, and the Fairfield Five's need to compete with businesses New York and Boston, and believes H.B. 6185 can help push the Fairfield Five in the right direction.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Ginger M. Rodriguez

Date: 3/27/19