

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6939

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL CULTURAL

Title: DISTRICTS.

Vote Date: 3/25/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/13/2019

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Planning and Development

CO-SPONSORS:

Rep. John H. Frey, 111th Dist.

Sen. Will Haskell, 26th Dist.

Rep. Fred Camillo, 151st Dist.

Rep. Leslee B. Hill, 17th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill allows municipalities to establish cultural districts to encourage economic development and promote tourism. According to testimony, this bill would further aid in increasing visibility in the arts and culture arena in Connecticut. This would attract more visitors and businesses to the municipalities, which would allow for economic growth.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jeff Shaw| Senior Director of Public Policy & Advocacy for the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance) stated his support for the bill. He emphasizes the increase in quality of life that may arise from arts and cultural initiatives, as well as the return on investment of funding for arts and cultural programs.

Betsy Gara| Executive Director of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, expressed her support for the bill, citing the need to further promote tourism in Connecticut.

Daniel Fitzmaurice| Executive Director of the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, stated his support for the bill. He emphasizes the potential for cross-sector collaboration and public private partnerships as well as the potential to attract new residents and businesses to the state.

Wendy Bury| Executive Director of the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, stated her support for the bill. She lists the potential for a town to increase the visibility of its cultural institutions as well as the potential to attract new visitors among her reasons for supporting the bill.

Ellen Burns| Resident and Co-owner of an independent bookstore in Ridgefield, stated her support for the bill. She details how this bill will encourage economic development in Connecticut towns while maintaining their community identity and character.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Caroline Costa

Date: April 2, 2019