To: Subst. House Bill No. 7306 File No. 355 Cal. No. 233

"AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES’ BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON TOURISM."

1 Strike section 1 and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-399 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(b) Within available appropriations, the following measures shall be implemented to enhance the operation of visitor welcome centers:

(1) Each center shall make available space for listing events and promoting attractions, by invitation to the Connecticut tourism industry, including tourism districts, chambers of commerce and any other tourism entities involved in Connecticut tourism promotion;

(2) The Department of Economic and Community Development, in
consultation with the Department of Transportation, shall develop plans for (A) consistent signage for the visitor welcome centers, and (B) highway signage regulations for privately operated centers. Signage for visitor welcome centers shall indicate the hours during which the visitor welcome centers are open;

(3) The Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development shall establish an "Adopt A Visitor Welcome Center" program, under which local civic organizations may provide maintenance, gardening, including wildflowers, and complimentary refreshments or any other type of service at a visitor welcome center to enhance the operation of the center;

(4) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall place a full-time year-round supervisor and a part-time assistant supervisor at the Danbury, Darien, North Stonington and West Willington centers. The responsibilities of each supervisor shall include, but not be limited to: (A) Maintaining a sufficient inventory of up-to-date brochures for dissemination to visitors, (B) scheduling staff so as to assure coverage at all times, (C) training staff, (D) compiling and maintaining statistics on center usage, (E) serving as liaison between the department, the Department of Transportation, the tourism district in which the center is located and businesses in such district, (F) maintaining quality tourism services, (G) rotating displays, (H) evaluating staff, (I) problem-solving, and (J) computing travel reimbursements for volunteer staff;

(5) Subject to available funds, the Department of Economic and Community Development shall place a seasonal full-time supervisor and a seasonal part-time assistant supervisor at the Greenwich and Westbrook centers. The department shall discontinue staffing at the Middletown, Plainfield and Wallingford centers, and shall, in conjunction with the tourism industry, seek contract workers to provide tourism services at the Westbrook center when not staffed by the state;
(6) Subject to available funds, the Department of Economic and Community Development, in conjunction with the tourism industry, shall develop and implement initial staff training and conduct periodic training of full-time and part-time supervisors.

(7) Subject to available funds, the restroom facilities located at each visitor welcome center shall be open twenty-four hours a day."

In line 76, strike "twelve" and insert in lieu thereof "fourteen"

In line 76, strike "Two" and insert in lieu thereof "Three"

In line 77, after "Senate," insert "one of whom shall represent the agritourism industry, one of whom shall represent the convention center and coliseum industry and one of whom shall represent the eastern regional tourism district established pursuant to section 10-397 of the general statutes;"

In line 78, after the first "Senate," insert "one of whom shall represent the events industry and one of whom shall represent the western regional tourism district established pursuant to section 10-397 of the general statutes;"

In line 78, after the second "Senate," insert "one of whom shall represent the marine trades industry and one of whom shall represent the outdoor recreation industry;"

In line 78, strike the second "two" and insert in lieu thereof "three"

In line 79, after "Representatives," insert "one of whom shall represent the destination shopping industry, one of whom shall represent the restaurant industry and one of whom shall represent the central regional tourism district established pursuant to section 10-397 of the general statutes;"

In line 80, after "Representatives," insert "one of whom shall represent the attractions industry and one of whom shall represent the lodging industry;"
In line 81, after "Representatives" insert ", one of whom shall represent the museum industry and one of whom shall represent the tour and travel industry"

In line 81, strike "The twelve members appointed"

Strike lines 82 to 85, inclusive, in their entirety

In line 86, strike "(x) museum, or (xi) tour and travel."