OLR Bill Analysis
SB 192

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REOPENING OF CONNECTICUT’S VISITOR WELCOME CENTERS USING VOLUNTEER STAFFING.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to develop a plan to recruit local volunteers to staff the state’s six visitor welcome centers and reopen any closed centers. He must develop the plan in consultation with local chambers of commerce and, by February 1, 2020, submit it to the Commerce Committee.

Existing law requires DECD and the Department of Transportation, within available appropriations, to establish a program under which local civic organizations may provide maintenance, gardening, complementary refreshments, or other services to enhance the centers’ operation (i.e., the “Adopt a Visitor Welcome Center” program). The centers are located in rest areas or service plazas in Danbury, Darien, Greenwich, North Stonington, West Willington, and Westbrook, but have been closed since 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 7306, favorably reported by the Commerce Committee, requires restroom facilities at each visitor welcome center to be open 24 hours per day, eliminates the “within available appropriations” restriction with regard to DECD’s staffing and implementation of visitor center operations, and requires signage to indicate the hours during which the centers are open.

COMMITTEE ACTION
Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 19  Nay 0  (03/19/2019)