sHB-7306
AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' BLUE RIBBON
COMMISSION ON TOURISM.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 9262
File Copy No.: 355
House Calendar No.: 233

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Affected</th>
<th>Fund-Effect</th>
<th>FY 20 $</th>
<th>FY 21 $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Economic &amp; Community Development</td>
<td>GF - See Below</td>
<td>See Below</td>
<td>See Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Transportation</td>
<td>TF - Potential Cost</td>
<td>See Below</td>
<td>See Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits¹</td>
<td>TF - Potential Cost</td>
<td>See Below</td>
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</table>

Note: GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The amendment strikes section one of the bill and its associated fiscal impact.

The amendment specifies that the provisions of the bill be implemented subject to available funds. The amendment does not alter the fiscal impact as identified in the underlying fiscal note.

The amendment requires the restroom facilities at the states six

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.19% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21.
visitor welcome centers to be open 24 hours per day. Of these six centers, three are open part time, 2 are open full time and one has been closed.

Currently, the visitor welcome centers in West Willington, Danbury and North Stonington are within the rest area facilities which are maintained by the Department of Transportation (DOT) during the hours of 8:30-3:30. There are 12 rest area attendants at a cost of approximately $500,000 annually. By keeping these three visitor welcome centers open an additional 16 hours, there would an associated fiscal impact of up to $371,894 for six rest area attendant positions ($263,400 for salary and $108,494 for fringe benefit costs). This cost is dependent on having one rest area attendant stationed at each welcome center for each shift.

The visitor welcome centers of Greenwich and Darien are within the service plazas and are currently open 24 hours a day which will not result in a cost as they are already overseen by DOT’s Property and Facilities Division.

The Westbrook visitor welcome center has been closed since July 27, 2016. There would be an anticipated cost of up to $100,000 for the inspection, cleaning and other repairs needed to open the visitor welcome center. Also, an associated cost of $185,947 ($131,700 for salary and $54,247 for fringe benefit costs) would be needed for three rest area attendant positions. This cost is dependent on having one rest area attendant stationed for each shift.

The amendment also eliminates the requirement in current law that the Department of Economic and Community Development maintain, operate, and manage the state's six visitor welcome centers, “within available appropriations.” These functions are estimated to cost up to $1.3 million annually including salaries, fringe benefits and expenses in addition to a one-time cost of $150,000 for physical improvements.

sHB 7148, the FY 20 and FY 21 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriated $1.3 million in the
Department of Transportation and $655,100 in the Department of Economic and Community Development for this purpose.

Lastly, the amendment makes changes to the Connecticut Tourism Council which has no fiscal impact.