



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 212

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6603

House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. SIMMONS, C. of the 144th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TOURISM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-397 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (b) Each regional tourism district shall be overseen by a board of
5 directors consisting of one representative from each municipality within
6 the district, appointed by the legislative body of the municipality and,
7 where the legislative body is a town meeting, by the board of selectmen,
8 except that two or more municipalities may jointly appoint one
9 representative, who shall be deemed to be present for each such
10 municipality for the purposes of a quorum at any board of directors'
11 meeting that such representative attends and be permitted to vote for
12 each such municipality at any such meeting. Any such member of a
13 board of directors shall serve for a term of three years. In addition, the
14 board of directors may appoint up to twenty-one persons representing
15 tourism interests within the district to serve on the board. No board

16 member shall be deemed a state employee for serving on said board. All
17 appointments to the board of directors shall be reported to the
18 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-397c of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
21 *passage*):

22 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and
23 Community Development, for administrative purposes only, a
24 Connecticut Tourism Council. The council shall consist of (1) the
25 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
26 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Transportation, or
27 the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Energy and
28 Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, (4) [twelve]
29 thirteen members appointed by the Governor, (A) one of whom shall
30 represent the lodging industry, (B) one of whom shall represent a
31 chamber of commerce, (C) one of whom shall represent a tourist
32 attraction, (D) one of whom shall represent the arts, (E) one of whom
33 shall represent a culturally diverse event or attraction, (F) one of whom
34 shall represent the heritage tourism industry, (G) one of whom shall
35 represent the airline industry, (H) one of whom shall represent the
36 Connecticut Airport Authority, (I) one of whom shall represent a
37 convention center and sports arena trade organization, (J) one of whom
38 shall represent a charter bus trade organization, [and] (K) two of whom
39 shall represent casino gaming facilities, and (L) one of whom shall
40 represent the Connecticut Tourism Coalition, (5) fourteen members
41 appointed as follows: (A) Three by the president pro tempore of the
42 Senate, one of whom shall represent the agritourism industry, one of
43 whom shall represent the convention center and coliseum industry and
44 one of whom shall represent the eastern regional tourism district
45 established pursuant to section 10-397, as amended by this act, (B) two
46 by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall represent the
47 events industry and one of whom shall represent the western regional
48 tourism district established pursuant to section 10-397, as amended by
49 this act, (C) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall

50 represent the marine trades industry and one of whom shall represent
51 the outdoor recreation industry, (D) three by the speaker of the House
52 of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the destination
53 shopping industry, one of whom shall represent the restaurant industry
54 and one of whom shall represent the central regional tourism district
55 established pursuant to section 10-397, as amended by this act, (E) two
56 by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom
57 shall represent the attractions industry and one of whom shall represent
58 the lodging industry, and (F) two by the minority leader of the House of
59 Representatives, one of whom shall represent the museum industry and
60 one of whom shall represent the tour and travel industry. All members
61 appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years. The terms
62 of all members appointed by members of the General Assembly shall be
63 coterminous with the terms of such members of the General Assembly.
64 The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall
65 serve as chairperson of the council.

66 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
67 study the shortage of employees in various tourism-related businesses
68 in the state, including, but not limited to, shoreline businesses and
69 marine trades, commercial fisheries, agricultural businesses, hotels and
70 restaurants, ferries, sight-seeing cruises, breweries, distilleries, wineries,
71 shellfish harvesting, amusement parks, museums, art galleries, antique
72 shops, gift shops and state and local public beaches, lakes and rivers.
73 The task force shall, (1) in consultation with tourism-related businesses,
74 create an inventory and timeline of employment opportunities in the
75 tourism industry; (2) in consultation with public and private schools,
76 local and regional chambers of commerce and the Connecticut Tourism
77 Council, create a mechanism to advertise the employment opportunities
78 identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to individuals
79 seeking employment; and (3) in consultation with the Department of
80 Transportation, review the most efficient, cost-effective and reliable
81 transportation available to individuals seeking employment and the
82 employment opportunities identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
83 subsection.

- 84 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 85 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 86 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 87 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
88 Representatives;
- 89 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 90 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
91 Representatives;
- 92 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 93 (7) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
94 or the commissioner's designee; and
- 95 (8) Two persons appointed by the Governor.
- 96 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
97 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
98 of the General Assembly.
- 99 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
100 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
101 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 102 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
103 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
104 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
105 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
106 days after the effective date of this section.
- 107 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
108 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
109 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 110 (g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report

111 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
112 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
113 commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
114 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
115 submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10-397(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-397c(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill adds a member to the Connecticut Tourism Council, increasing the council's membership to 30. The council must evaluate the Department of Economic and Community Development's biennial strategic marketing plan for culture and tourism and annually report to the Commerce Committee on the plan and the state's tourism promotion efforts.

The bill also establishes an 11-member task force to study the shortage of employees in various tourism-related businesses in the state. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Commerce Committee by January 1, 2022 and shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6603

AN ACT CONCERNING TOURISM.

SUMMARY

This bill allows two or more municipalities to jointly appoint one representative to a regional tourism board of directors. Under the bill, the jointly appointed representative (1) is deemed present for each appointing municipality for purposes of a quorum at a board meeting and (2) may vote for each appointing municipality. By law, the state has three regional tourism districts (Eastern, Central, and Western). Regional tourism district boards consist of one representative from each municipality within the district, appointed by the municipality's legislative body (or board of selectmen if the legislative body is a town meeting).

The bill also adds a representative of the Connecticut Tourism Coalition to the Connecticut Tourism Council, thus increasing the council's membership from 29 to 30. The bill requires that the coalition's representative be appointed by the governor. By law, the council is within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for administrative purposes only. Among other things, it must (1) evaluate DECD's biennial strategic marketing plan for culture and tourism and (2) annually report to the Commerce Committee on the plan and the state's tourism promotion efforts.

Lastly, the bill establishes an 11-member task force to study the shortage of employees in various tourism-related businesses in the state (e.g., shoreline businesses and marine trades). The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Commerce Committee by January 1, 2022. It terminates on this date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the provision allowing for joint appointments to regional tourism boards of directors is effective October 1, 2021.

TASK FORCE

Under the bill, the task force consists of 11 members: (1) two appointees each by the governor, House speaker, and Senate president pro tempore, (2) one appointee each by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders, and (3) the DECD commissioner or his designee. Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. Members appointed by legislative leaders may be legislators.

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the task force's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the task force's first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill's passage. The Commerce Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

The bill requires the task force to create an inventory and timeline of tourism industry employment opportunities and a mechanism for advertising these opportunities. It must also review the most efficient, cost-effective, and reliable transportation available to individuals seeking these opportunities. The task force must consult with (1) tourism-related businesses about the inventory and timelines; (2) public and private schools, local and regional chambers of commerce, and the Connecticut Tourism Council about advertising; and (3) the Department of Transportation about transportation availability.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 3 (§ 3), reported favorably by the Commerce Committee, establishes a task force with a similar charge.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/16/2021)