



Substitute House Bill No. 6603

Public Act No. 21-94

AN ACT CONCERNING TOURISM.

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

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 Subsection (b) of section 10-397 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(b) Each regional tourism district shall be overseen by a board of directors consisting of one representative from each municipality within the district, appointed by the legislative body of the municipality and, where the legislative body is a town meeting, by the board of selectmen, except that two or more municipalities may jointly appoint one representative, who shall be deemed to be present for each such municipality for the purposes of a quorum at any board of directors' meeting that such representative attends and be permitted to vote for each such municipality at any such meeting. Any such member of a board of directors shall serve for a term of three years. In addition, the board of directors may appoint up to twenty-one persons representing tourism interests within the district to serve on the board. No board member shall be deemed a state employee for serving on said board. All appointments to the board of directors shall be reported to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

Substitute House Bill No. 6603

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 Subsection (a) of section 10-397c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established within the Department of Economic and Community Development, for administrative purposes only, a Connecticut Tourism Council. The council shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, (4) thirteen members appointed by the Governor, (A) one of whom shall represent the lodging industry, (B) one of whom shall represent a chamber of commerce, (C) one of whom shall represent a tourist attraction, (D) one of whom shall represent the arts, (E) one of whom shall represent a culturally diverse event or attraction, (F) one of whom shall represent the heritage tourism industry, (G) one of whom shall represent the airline industry, (H) one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Airport Authority, (I) one of whom shall represent a convention center and sports arena trade organization, (J) one of whom shall represent a charter bus trade organization, [and] (K) two of whom shall represent casino gaming facilities, and (L) one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Tourism Coalition. (5) fourteen members appointed as follows: (A) Three by the president pro tempore of the Senate, 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, as amended by this act. (B) two by the majority leader of the Senate, 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, as amended by this act. (C) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall represent the marine trades industry and one of whom shall represent

Substitute House Bill No. 6603

the outdoor recreation industry, (D) three by the speaker of the House of Representatives, 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, as amended by this act, (E) two by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the attractions industry and one of whom shall represent the lodging industry, and (F) two by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the museum industry and one of whom shall represent the tour and travel industry. All members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years. The terms of all members appointed by members of the General Assembly shall be coterminous with the terms of such members of the General Assembly. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall serve as chairperson of the council.

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

Substitute House Bill No. 6603

subsection.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(7) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee; and

(8) Two persons appointed by the Governor.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

Substitute House Bill No. 6603

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

Approved June 28, 2021