
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6595

AN ACT CONCERNING AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TOOLKIT AND A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to (1) hire a consultant to support the creation of a historic preservation toolkit website, as described in the Working Group Regarding Protection and Preservation of Historic Properties' final report, and (2) submit the toolkit's website address to the Commerce committee by June 30, 2024. Starting on that date, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (a quasi-public nonprofit organization currently known as Preservation Connecticut) must host and maintain the historic preservation toolkit on its website. The bill appropriates \$50,000 to DECD from the General Fund in FY 24 for these purposes.

The bill also authorizes DECD to issue a request for proposals to study the feasibility of establishing a historic preservation revolving loan program. DECD may seek federal grants to conduct the study, and the study's results must be reported to the Commerce committee. The study may examine:

1. program scope;
2. potential borrowers that may seek loans through the program;
3. permitted uses of program funds;
4. data collection related to the program;
5. program administration;

6. how the program would complement existing local, state, and federal historic preservation programs; and
7. funding required to establish the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Historic Preservation Toolkit

The Working Group Regarding the Protection and Preservation of Historic Properties recommends in its final report that a historic preservation toolkit include (1) information about historic preservation's benefits, (2) links to related articles and organizational websites, (3) training and educational materials, and (4) resources for communities for whom historic preservation is most relevant. According to the working group, the toolkit's purpose is to provide stakeholders with step-by-step guidance for various situations related to historic preservation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/14/2023)