



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 679

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6692

House of Representatives, May 2, 2023

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. HORN of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM GRANTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-400 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 With respect to arts activities, the Department of Economic and
4 Community Development shall encourage, within the state or in
5 association with other states, or both, participation in, and promotion,
6 development, acceptance and appreciation of, artistic and cultural
7 activities that shall include, but are not limited to, music, theater, dance,
8 painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, films and allied arts and
9 crafts and to this end shall have the following powers: (1) To join or
10 contract with consultants, private patrons, individual artists and
11 ensembles and with institutions, local sponsoring organizations and
12 professional organizations; (2) to enter into contracts to provide grants,
13 loans or advances to individuals, organizations, or institutions, public

14 or private, that are engaged in or plan to engage in artistic and cultural
15 programs or activities within the state, or that are engaged in or plan to
16 engage in the promotion, development, or encouragement of artistic
17 and cultural programs or activities within the state, including, but not
18 limited to, grants or loans to such individuals, organizations or
19 institutions, for the purposes of state-wide marketing, infrastructure or
20 workforce development; (3) to accept, hold and administer, on behalf of
21 the department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-28, 4-31,
22 4-31a and 4b-22, real property, personal property, securities, other
23 choses in action and moneys, or any interest therein, and income
24 therefrom, either absolutely or in trust, for any purpose of the
25 department. The department may acquire or receive such property or
26 money for its purposes by the acceptance of state or federal or public or
27 private loans, contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or
28 devises, and the department shall deposit or credit the same in the
29 culture and tourism account established under section 10-395; (4) to
30 establish a nonprofit foundation for the purpose of raising funds from
31 private sources to encourage, within the state or in association with
32 other states, or both, participation in, and promotion, development,
33 acceptance and appreciation of, artistic and cultural activities that shall
34 include, but are not limited to, music, theater, dance, painting,
35 sculpture, architecture, literature, films, heritage, historic preservation,
36 humanities and allied arts and crafts. All funds received by the
37 foundation shall be held in the manner prescribed by sections 4-37e to
38 4-37j, inclusive; and (5) to perform such other acts as may be necessary
39 or appropriate to carry out the objectives and purposes of the
40 department. The General Assembly declares that all activities
41 undertaken in carrying out the policies set forth in this chapter shall be
42 directed toward encouraging and assisting, rather than in any way
43 limiting, the freedom of artistic expression that is essential for the well-
44 being of the arts. Said department shall maintain a survey of public and
45 private facilities engaged within the state in artistic and cultural
46 activities and determine the needs of the citizens of this state and the
47 methods by which existing resources may be utilized, or new resources
48 developed, to fulfill these needs. The department shall maintain a

49 register of Connecticut artists. The name, town of residence and artistic
50 medium of any such artist residing in Connecticut shall be entered in
51 the register by the department upon the artist's request.

52 Sec. 2. Section 10-401 of the general statutes is repealed and the
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

54 The Department of Economic and Community Development shall
55 establish and administer a special incentive grant program to provide
56 financial assistance for artistic and cultural programs and activities
57 pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-400, as amended by this act.
58 The department shall identify strategic goals, establish metrics and
59 establish an accountability structure for such grant program. No state
60 funds appropriated to the department for the purposes of said program
61 shall be disbursed unless one-third of the amount of such financial
62 assistance consists of nonfederal funds raised and received by said
63 department.

64 Sec. 3. Section 10-396 of the general statutes is repealed and the
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

66 With respect to tourism activities, the Department of Economic and
67 Community Development shall:

68 (1) Develop, annually update and implement a strategic marketing
69 plan for the national and international promotion of Connecticut as a
70 tourism destination;

71 (2) Develop a Connecticut strategic plan for new tourism products
72 and attractions;

73 (3) Provide marketing and other assistance to the tourism industry;

74 (4) Ensure cooperation among the regional tourism districts;

75 (5) Within available appropriations, maintain, operate and manage
76 the visitor welcome centers in the state;

77 (6) Within available appropriations, develop and administer a grant

78 program to support programs and initiatives of entities primarily
 79 engaging in activities relating to the tourism industry;

80 [(6)] (7) Develop and administer a program of challenge grants to
 81 encourage innovation and job development, provide incentives for
 82 coordinated activity consistent with the strategic marketing plan and
 83 stimulate the development of private funds for tourism promotion;
 84 [and]

85 [(7)] (8) Subject to available funds, assist municipalities to
 86 accommodate tourist attractions within such municipalities or within
 87 neighboring or adjoining municipalities; and

88 (9) Establish metrics and an accountability structure for tourism
 89 investments made by the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10-400
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	10-401
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	10-396

CE Joint Favorable Subst. C/R **FIN**

FIN 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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost to the state by requiring the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to develop a grant program to support tourism initiatives. DECD currently funds various statewide and local tourism initiatives. Any additional tourism programs would result in a cost that would be dependent upon the scope of the new program.

The bill has no fiscal impact by requiring DECD to establish metrics and accountability measures for certain arts, culture, and tourism programs. This can be completed with existing staff and resources of the agency.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6692

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM GRANTS.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies the Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) tourism- and arts-related powers and duties.

Regarding DECD's tourism-related duties, the bill requires the department to (1) develop and administer a grant program, within available appropriations, to support the programs and initiatives of entities primarily engaged in tourism-related activities and (2) establish metrics and an accountability structure for the state's tourism investments.

Current law on DECD's arts-related duties authorizes the department to give grants, loans, or advances to individuals and entities for artistic and cultural programs or activities in the state (or for promoting, developing, or encouraging them). Specifically, DECD must provide financial assistance through a special incentive grant program it administers. The bill (1) specifies that this financial assistance may include grants or loans for statewide marketing, infrastructure, or workforce development and (2) requires the department to identify strategic goals and establish metrics and an accountability structure for its special incentive grant program.

Under existing law and unchanged by the bill, state funds appropriated to DECD for the special incentive grant program cannot be disbursed unless one third of any financial assistance consists of non-federal funds the department raises and receives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - FIN
Yea 22 Nay 1 (03/09/2023)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 51 Nay 0 (04/18/2023)