

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A PLAN  
FOR EXPANDING THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN THE MYSTIC  
SEAPORT AREA OF THE TOWNS OF STONINGTON AND GROTON.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working  
2 group to develop an economic development and tourism plan for the  
3 greater Mystic area. For the purposes of this section, "the greater Mystic  
4 area" means the towns of Groton, New London and Stonington. Such  
5 plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

6 (1) Proposals for projects to develop and expand tourist destinations  
7 in the greater Mystic area;

8 (2) Initiatives to promote tourism in the greater Mystic area through  
9 marketing campaigns, events and partnerships with local businesses  
10 and tourist attractions;

11 (3) A proposal for developing a multimodal transportation center in  
12 the greater Mystic area;

13 (4) An examination of transportation options to ease traffic  
14 congestion, which may include, but need not be limited to, water taxis,  
15 parking areas and structures, bike lanes, trolley services, train access  
16 and related options;

17 (5) An analysis of alternatives to alleviate parking and traffic pressure  
18 in the greater Mystic area, with a focus on green transportation;

19 (6) An examination of the feasibility of dredging the Mystic River for  
20 transportation purposes;

21 (7) The identification of permits that may be required of the state,  
22 towns, the public or businesses to implement the projects proposed by  
23 the working group;

24 (8) Proposals for strengthening public safety in the greater Mystic  
25 area;

26 (9) Proposals for developing the workforce in the greater Mystic area;

27 (10) An examination of ways to utilize tax revenue to benefit the  
28 greater Mystic area; and

29 (11) An analysis of the costs of implementing the projects proposed  
30 by the working group.

31 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

32 (1) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General  
33 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce;

34 (2) A representative of the eastern regional district, established  
35 pursuant to section 10-397 of the general statutes;

36 (3) A representative of an organization that advocates for business  
37 and tourism in the greater Mystic area;

38 (4) A representative of an organization that advocates for hospitality  
39 and restaurant businesses in the greater Mystic area;

40 (5) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of  
41 Groton;

42 (6) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of  
43 Stonington;

44 (7) A representative of an historic district in the greater Mystic area;

- 45 (8) A representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe;
- 46 (9) Three representatives of different tourist attractions in the greater  
47 Mystic area;
- 48 (10) A representative of a regional council of governments serving the  
49 greater Mystic area;
- 50 (11) A representative of the town of Groton;
- 51 (12) A representative of the town of Stonington;
- 52 (13) A representative of the town of New London;
- 53 (14) A representative of the office of the Governor, who shall be  
54 appointed by the Governor;
- 55 (15) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
56 or the commissioner's designee;
- 57 (16) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's  
58 designee;
- 59 (17) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or  
60 the commissioner's designee;
- 61 (18) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, or the commissioner's  
62 designee;
- 63 (19) The chief elected official of Groton, or the official's designee;
- 64 (20) The chief elected official of Stonington, or the official's designee;  
65 and
- 66 (21) The chief elected official of New London, or the official's  
67 designee.
- 68 (c) The chairpersons of the working group shall appoint the members  
69 described in subdivisions (2) to (13), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this

70 section.

71 (d) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision  
72 (3), (4), (7), (9), (11), (12) or (13) of subsection (b) of this section may be a  
73 member of the General Assembly.

74 (e) The working group may consult with any persons or experts to  
75 carry out the provisions of this section.

76 (f) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not  
77 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy  
78 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

79 (g) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General  
80 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall be  
81 the chairpersons of the working group. Such chairpersons shall  
82 schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not  
83 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

84 (h) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
85 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce  
86 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

87 (i) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a  
88 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
89 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
90 relating to commerce, transportation, the environment and finance,  
91 revenue and bonding in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
92 of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date  
93 that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section