



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 458

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5432

House of Representatives, April 11, 2024

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. MESKERS of the 150th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM PLAN FOR THE GREATER MYSTIC AREA OF THE TOWNS OF GROTON, NEW LONDON AND STONINGTON.

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) The ranking members of the joint standing committee of the
35 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce,
36 or their designees;

37 (3) A representative of the eastern regional district, established
38 pursuant to section 10-397 of the general statutes;

39 (4) A representative of an organization that advocates for business
40 and tourism in the greater Mystic area;

41 (5) A representative of an organization that advocates for hospitality
42 and restaurant businesses in the greater Mystic area;

43 (6) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of
44 Groton;

45 (7) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of
46 Stonington;

47 (8) A representative of an historic district in the greater Mystic area;

48 (9) A representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe;

49 (10) Three representatives of different tourist attractions in the
50 greater Mystic area;

51 (11) A representative of a regional council of governments serving the
52 greater Mystic area;

53 (12) A representative of the town of Groton;

54 (13) A representative of the town of Stonington;

55 (14) A representative of the town of New London;

56 (15) A representative of the office of the Governor, who shall be
57 appointed by the Governor;

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

60 (17) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's
61 designee;

62 (18) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
63 the commissioner's designee;

64 (19) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, or the commissioner's
65 designee;

66 (20) The chief elected official of Groton, or the official's designee;

67 (21) The chief elected official of Stonington, or the official's designee;
68 and

69 (22) The chief elected official of New London, or the official's
70 designee.

71 (c) The chairpersons of the working group shall appoint the members
72 described in subdivisions (3) to (14), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this
73 section.

74 (d) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision
75 (4), (5), (8), (10), (12), (13) or (14) of subsection (b) of this section may be
76 a member of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

90 (i) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a
91 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
92 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

93 relating to commerce, transportation, the environment and finance,
94 revenue and bonding, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
95 4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date
96 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

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 has no fiscal impact by establishing a working group to develop an economic and tourism plan for the greater Mystic area. It is anticipated that the members of the working group will have the expertise necessary or consult with any persons or experts needed, as allowed by the bill, to complete the plan.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/26/2024)