



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5432

LCO No. 2586



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

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 a plan for expanding the tourism industry in the
3 Mystic Seaport area of the towns of Stonington and Groton. Such plan
4 shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: (1) Proposals for
5 projects to develop and expand tourist destinations in such area, and (2)
6 initiatives to promote tourism in such area through marketing
7 campaigns, events and partnerships with local business and tourist
8 attractions.

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

10 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

11 (2) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

12 (3) A representative of the office of the Governor, who shall be

13 appointed by the Governor;

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

16 (5) A representative of the town of Groton, who shall be appointed
17 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

18 (6) A representative of the town of Stonington, who shall be
19 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

20 (7) A representative of an organization that advocates for hospitality
21 and restaurant businesses in the Mystic Seaport area of the towns of
22 Stonington and Groton, who shall be appointed by the speaker of the
23 House of Representatives; and

24 (8) Two representatives of different tourist attractions in the Mystic
25 area of the towns of Stonington and Groton that each have admissions
26 of not less than fifteen thousand visitors per year, one of whom shall be
27 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom
28 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the House of
29 Representatives.

30 (c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision
31 (1), (2), (5), (6), (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
32 of the General Assembly.

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

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

41 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

42 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
43 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

44 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a
45 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
46 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
47 relating to commerce, transportation and the environment in
48 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
49 The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such
50 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

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a working group to develop a plan for expanding the tourism industry in the Mystic Seaport area of the towns of Stonington and Groton.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]