



House of Representatives

File No. 652

General Assembly

February Session, 2024 **(Reprint of File No. 458)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5432
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 2, 2024

**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 and
20 the Thames River for 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;

29 (11) The consideration of (A) areas in the greater Mystic area
30 identified as likely to be inundated during a thirty-year flood event by
31 the Marine Sciences Division of The University of Connecticut in the
32 most recent sea level change scenario published by the division
33 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 25-680 of the general statutes, (B)
34 the potential impact of such flood event on tourist attractions in such
35 areas, and (C) ways to address any such potential impact;

36 (12) The identification of any federal or state funding opportunities
37 for investments in the Greater Mystic tourism sector, transportation
38 sector or climate resilience infrastructure made available by (A) the
39 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58, as amended from

40 time to time, (B) the Inflation Reduction Act, P.L. 117-169, as amended
41 from time to time, or (C) state grants; and

42 (13) An analysis of the costs of implementing the projects proposed
43 by the working group.

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

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

47 (2) The ranking members of the joint standing committee of the
48 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce,
49 or their designees;

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

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

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

56 (6) A representative of an organization that advocates for climate
57 resilience and sustainability in the greater Mystic area;

58 (7) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of
59 Groton;

60 (8) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of
61 Stonington;

62 (9) A representative of an historic district in the greater Mystic area;

63 (10) A representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe;

64 (11) A representative of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut;

65 (12) Five representatives of different tourist attractions in the greater
66 Mystic area;

67 (13) A representative of a regional council of governments serving the
68 greater Mystic area;

69 (14) A representative of the town of Groton;

70 (15) A representative of the town of Stonington;

71 (16) A representative of the town of New London;

72 (17) A representative of the office of the Governor, who shall be
73 appointed by the Governor;

74 (18) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
75 or the commissioner's designee;

76 (19) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's
77 designee;

78 (20) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
79 the commissioner's designee;

80 (21) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, or the commissioner's
81 designee;

82 (22) The chief elected official of Groton, or the official's designee;

83 (23) The chief elected official of Stonington, or the official's designee;
84 and

85 (24) The chief elected official of New London, or the official's
86 designee.

87 (c) The chairpersons of the working group shall appoint the members
88 described in subdivisions (3) to (16), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this
89 section.

90 (d) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision
91 (4), (5), (6), (9), (12), (14), (15) or (16) of subsection (b) of this section may
92 be a member of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

106 (i) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a
107 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
108 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
109 relating to commerce, transportation, the environment and finance,
110 revenue and bonding, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
111 4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date
112 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

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.

House "A" has no fiscal impact by modifying the requirements and the members of the working group.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5432 (as amended by House "A")

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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)