

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6547

AN ACT CONCERNING A WORKING GROUP REGARDING THE

Title: PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES.

Vote Date: 3/21/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2021

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Brian T. Smith, 48th Dist.

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut has a rich history which must be protected, and can offer economic benefits. The bill aims to require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to convene a working group to develop a plan to support and facilitate historic preservation efforts by municipalities, historical societies and other nonprofit entities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

David Lehman, Commissioner and Governor's Senior Economic Advisor

Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD): In support: The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has worked since 1955 to preserve Connecticut's historic resources. HB 6547 is in line with our mission to promote the stewardship of historic properties, provide technical advice, empower local preservation advocates, and helps build partnerships. Therefore, we appreciate the legislature's efforts to convene this working group and urge the Committee's support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Mary A. Falvey, President of Connecticut Preservation Action: Voiced support. However, believes working group would benefit from including the Hartford Preservation Alliance, New London Landmarks, and the New Haven, New Milford, and Norwalk Preservation Trusts.

John Guskowski, President of CCAPA: Voiced support. “Far too often, the owners of these properties lack the necessary incentives and financial resources to maintain and preserve these assets... The Working Group proposed by this Bill will help to create a revolving fund and other critical proactive resources to help our communities.” CCAPA also offers to become a contributor to the Working Group.

Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager of Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM): Voiced support and requested including municipal officials or organizations in the working group.

Patrick McMahon, CEO of Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC): Voiced support, stating: “The state historic tax credit and grant programs administered by the State Historic Preservation Office have been instrumental in moving historic restoration and rehabilitation projects forward and are key to a sustainable future for Connecticut. We respectfully request that this bill be amended to include representation of Connecticut Main Street Center as part of the working group membership.”

Jane Montanero, Executive Director of Preservation Connecticut: Voiced support that historic properties in Connecticut are under threat, and more tools are needed to preserve them.

Jim Perras, CEO of Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Connecticut, Inc: Voiced support, however does not believe the group is inclusive enough: “HBRA-CT recommends JFS language that includes representation of contractors on the working group with expertise in rehabbing and retrofitting historic buildings to maximize their best use in a safe and environmentally manner.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

N/A

Reported by: Colin Savino

Date: 3/22/21