



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6603***

LCO No. 4447



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:  
(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS AND TOURISM COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-397 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (b) Each regional tourism district shall be overseen by a board of  
5 directors consisting of one representative from each municipality within  
6 the district, appointed by the legislative body of the municipality and,  
7 where the legislative body is a town meeting, by the board of selectmen,  
8 except that two or more municipalities may jointly appoint one  
9 representative, who shall be deemed to be present for each such  
10 municipality for the purposes of a quorum at any board of directors  
11 meeting that such representative attends and be permitted to vote for  
12 each such municipality at any such meeting. Any such member of a  
13 board of directors shall serve for a term of three years. In addition, the  
14 board of directors may appoint up to twenty-one persons representing  
15 tourism interests within the district to serve on the board. No board

16 member shall be deemed a state employee for serving on said board. All  
17 appointments to the board of directors shall be reported to the  
18 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-397c of the general statutes is  
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
21 *passage*):

22 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and  
23 Community Development, for administrative purposes only, a  
24 Connecticut Tourism Council. The council shall consist of (1) the  
25 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the  
26 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Transportation, or  
27 the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Energy and  
28 Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, (4) [twelve]  
29 thirteen members appointed by the Governor, (A) one of whom shall  
30 represent the lodging industry, (B) one of whom shall represent a  
31 chamber of commerce, (C) one of whom shall represent a tourist  
32 attraction, (D) one of whom shall represent the arts, (E) one of whom  
33 shall represent a culturally diverse event or attraction, (F) one of whom  
34 shall represent the heritage tourism industry, (G) one of whom shall  
35 represent the airline industry, (H) one of whom shall represent the  
36 Connecticut Airport Authority, (I) one of whom shall represent a  
37 convention center and sports arena trade organization, (J) one of whom  
38 shall represent a charter bus trade organization, [and] (K) two of whom  
39 shall represent casino gaming facilities, and (L) one of whom shall  
40 represent the Connecticut Tourism Coalition, (5) fourteen members  
41 appointed as follows: (A) Three by the president pro tempore of the  
42 Senate, one of whom shall represent the agritourism industry, one of  
43 whom shall represent the convention center and coliseum industry and  
44 one of whom shall represent the eastern regional tourism district  
45 established pursuant to section 10-397, as amended by this act, (B) two  
46 by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall represent the  
47 events industry and one of whom shall represent the western regional  
48 tourism district established pursuant to section 10-397, as amended by  
49 this act, (C) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall

50 represent the marine trades industry and one of whom shall represent  
51 the outdoor recreation industry, (D) three by the speaker of the House  
52 of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the destination  
53 shopping industry, one of whom shall represent the restaurant industry  
54 and one of whom shall represent the central regional tourism district  
55 established pursuant to section 10-397, as amended by this act, (E) two  
56 by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom  
57 shall represent the attractions industry and one of whom shall represent  
58 the lodging industry, and (F) two by the minority leader of the House of  
59 Representatives, one of whom shall represent the museum industry and  
60 one of whom shall represent the tour and travel industry. All members  
61 appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years. The terms  
62 of all members appointed by members of the General Assembly shall be  
63 coterminous with the terms of such members of the General Assembly.  
64 The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall  
65 serve as chairperson of the council.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	10-397(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-397c(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) allow two or more municipalities in any regional tourism district to jointly appoint one representative to the regional tourism district boards of directors, and (2) require that a representative of the Connecticut Tourism Coalition be a member of the Connecticut Tourism Council.

*[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.]*