



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 324

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6595

House of Representatives, March 30, 2023

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 CONCERNING AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TOOLKIT
AND A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF AN HISTORIC
PRESERVATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Economic and Community Development shall hire a consultant to
3 support the creation of an historic preservation toolkit Internet web site,
4 as described in the final report of the working group established
5 pursuant to special act 21-13.

6 (b) On and after June 30, 2024, the Connecticut Trust for Historic
7 Preservation shall host and maintain the historic preservation toolkit on
8 said trust's existing Internet web site. Not later than June 30, 2024, the
9 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit
10 the Internet web site address of the historic preservation toolkit to the
11 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
12 matters relating to commerce.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Department of Economic

14 and Community Development may issue a request for proposals to
 15 conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing an historic preservation
 16 revolving loan fund program. Such feasibility study may include, but
 17 need not be limited to, an examination of: (1) The scope of such program;
 18 (2) potential borrowers that may avail themselves of such program; (3)
 19 permitted uses of the funds of such program; (4) the types of data
 20 relating to such program that should be collected; (5) how such program
 21 may be administered; (6) how such program would complement
 22 existing local, state and federal historic preservation programs; and (7)
 23 the funding required to establish such program.

24 (b) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall
 25 submit a report on the results of any study conducted pursuant to
 26 subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committee of the
 27 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce,
 28 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

29 (c) The Department of Economic and Community Development may
 30 seek federal grants-in-aid for the purpose of conducting any study
 31 under subsection (a) of this section.

32 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The sum of fifty thousand dollars is
 33 appropriated to the Department of Economic and Community
 34 Development from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
 35 2024, for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of section 1 of this
 36 act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Cost	50,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of \$50,000 to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to hire a consultant to support the creation of a historic preservation toolkit website. **Section 3** of the bill appropriates funding of \$50,000 in FY 24 from the General Fund to DECD to fund the cost of the consultant.

The bill also allows DECD to issue a request for proposals to study the feasibility of establishing a historic preservation revolving loan program. There is no fiscal impact to the state as the bill allows DECD to seek federal grants to conduct the study.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above is limited to FY 24 only and therefore has no impact in the outyears.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6595*****AN ACT CONCERNING AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TOOLKIT AND A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to (1) hire a consultant to support the creation of a historic preservation toolkit website, as described in the Working Group Regarding Protection and Preservation of Historic Properties' final report, and (2) submit the toolkit's website address to the Commerce committee by June 30, 2024. Starting on that date, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (a quasi-public nonprofit organization currently known as Preservation Connecticut) must host and maintain the historic preservation toolkit on its website. The bill appropriates \$50,000 to DECD from the General Fund in FY 24 for these purposes.

The bill also authorizes DECD to issue a request for proposals to study the feasibility of establishing a historic preservation revolving loan program. DECD may seek federal grants to conduct the study, and the study's results must be reported to the Commerce committee. The study may examine:

1. program scope;
2. potential borrowers that may seek loans through the program;
3. permitted uses of program funds;
4. data collection related to the program;

5. program administration;
6. how the program would complement existing local, state, and federal historic preservation programs; and
7. funding required to establish the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Historic Preservation Toolkit

The Working Group Regarding the Protection and Preservation of Historic Properties recommends in its final report that a historic preservation toolkit include (1) information about historic preservation’s benefits, (2) links to related articles and organizational websites, (3) training and educational materials, and (4) resources for communities for whom historic preservation is most relevant. According to the working group, the toolkit’s purpose is to provide stakeholders with step-by-step guidance for various situations related to historic preservation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/14/2023)