

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6595

AN ACT CONCERNING AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TOOLKIT AND A
STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVOLVING

Title: LOAN FUND PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/14/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/10/2023

File No.: 324

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

[Rep. Anthony L. Nolan, 39th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Geraldo C. Reyes, 75th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

Arts, culture, and tourism organizations around the state are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, facing increased costs and a slow return to pre-pandemic levels of attendance and community engagement. As a result, these organizations are more reliant than ever on state funding and support. However, many of these organizations have reported a reduction in state support, and are hoping for changes leading to greater amounts of funding.

Substitute Language: (LCO 5985)

Added the DECD commissioner would hire a consultant to create a historic preservation toolkit Internet web site. Added the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation shall host and maintain the historic preservation toolkit on said trust's existing Internet web site. Added \$50,000 would be appropriated to the DECD from the General Fund to fund the creation of a historic preservation toolkit Internet web site. Added the DECD may issue a request for proposals to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a historic preservation revolving loan fund program; the results of the study will be submitted to the joint standing committee of the 32 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce. Added the DECD may seek federal grants-in-aid for the purpose of conducting any study regarding HB-6595.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rufus de Rham, Executive Director, Warner Theatre, Supports

Mr. de Rham believes HB-6595 would help shine light on how arts, culture and tourism funding is distributed throughout the state and how it compares to the funding levels of similar organizations in other states.

Anthony McDonald, Executive Director, Shubert Theatre, Supports

Mr. McDonald believes HB-6595 would help the state more adequately support its valuable arts, culture, and tourism assets.

Michael Moran, President & CEO, Palace Theatre of Stamford, President & CEO of Stamford Center of the Arts, Supports

Mr. Moran believes HB-6595 would help support theatres around the state who continue to struggle from the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Frank Tavera, CEO, Palace Theater Group, Supports

Mr. Tavera believes HB-6595 would help the state more adequately support its valuable arts, culture, and tourism assets. Additionally, he thinks the DECD should study various funding and investment models nationwide to determine the best practices to fund arts, culture, and tourism organizations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Colin DeCure

Date: 4/10/2023