



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4562



Offered by:

REP. MESKERS, 150th Dist.
SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.
REP. HARRISON, 69th Dist.
SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5432

File No. 458

Cal. No. 302

"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."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
4 group to develop an economic development and tourism plan for the
5 greater Mystic area. For the purposes of this section, "the greater Mystic
6 area" means the towns of Groton, New London and Stonington. Such
7 plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

8 (1) Proposals for projects to develop and expand tourist destinations
9 in the greater Mystic area;

10 (2) Initiatives to promote tourism in the greater Mystic area through

11 marketing campaigns, events and partnerships with local businesses
12 and tourist attractions;

13 (3) A proposal for developing a multimodal transportation center in
14 the greater Mystic area;

15 (4) An examination of transportation options to ease traffic
16 congestion, which may include, but need not be limited to, water taxis,
17 parking areas and structures, bike lanes, trolley services, train access
18 and related options;

19 (5) An analysis of alternatives to alleviate parking and traffic pressure
20 in the greater Mystic area, with a focus on green transportation;

21 (6) An examination of the feasibility of dredging the Mystic River and
22 the Thames River for transportation purposes;

23 (7) The identification of permits that may be required of the state,
24 towns, the public or businesses to implement the projects proposed by
25 the working group;

26 (8) Proposals for strengthening public safety in the greater Mystic
27 area;

28 (9) Proposals for developing the workforce in the greater Mystic area;

29 (10) An examination of ways to utilize tax revenue to benefit the
30 greater Mystic area;

31 (11) The consideration of (A) areas in the greater Mystic area
32 identified as likely to be inundated during a thirty-year flood event by
33 the Marine Sciences Division of The University of Connecticut in the
34 most recent sea level change scenario published by the division
35 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 25-68o of the general statutes, (B)
36 the potential impact of such flood event on tourist attractions in such
37 areas, and (C) ways to address any such potential impact;

38 (12) The identification of any federal or state funding opportunities

39 for investments in the Greater Mystic tourism sector, transportation
40 sector or climate resilience infrastructure made available by (A) the
41 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58, as amended from
42 time to time, (B) the Inflation Reduction Act, P.L. 117-169, as amended
43 from time to time, or (C) state grants; and

44 (13) An analysis of the costs of implementing the projects proposed
45 by the working group.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

60 (7) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of
61 Groton;

62 (8) A representative of the local traffic authority of the town of
63 Stonington;

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

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

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

67 (12) Five representatives of different tourist attractions in the greater
68 Mystic area;

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

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

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

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

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

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

78 (19) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's
79 designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

92 (d) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision
93 (4), (5), (6), (9), (12), (14), (15) or (16) of subsection (b) of this section may
94 be a member of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

108 (i) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a
109 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
110 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
111 relating to commerce, transportation, the environment and finance,
112 revenue and bonding, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
113 4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date
114 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 |