



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 6692***

LCO No. 3829



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:  
(CE)

***AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM GRANTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-400 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 With respect to arts activities, the Department of Economic and  
4 Community Development shall encourage, within the state or in  
5 association with other states, or both, participation in, and promotion,  
6 development, acceptance and appreciation of, artistic and cultural  
7 activities that shall include, but are not limited to, music, theater, dance,  
8 painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, films and allied arts and  
9 crafts and to this end shall have the following powers: (1) To join or  
10 contract with consultants, private patrons, individual artists and  
11 ensembles and with institutions, local sponsoring organizations and  
12 professional organizations; (2) to enter into contracts to provide grants,  
13 loans or advances to individuals, organizations, or institutions, public  
14 or private, that are engaged in or plan to engage in artistic and cultural  
15 programs or activities within the state, or that are engaged in or plan to

16 engage in the promotion, development, or encouragement of artistic  
17 and cultural programs or activities within the state, including, but not  
18 limited to, grants or loans to such individuals, organizations or  
19 institutions, for the purposes of state-wide marketing, infrastructure or  
20 workforce development; (3) to accept, hold and administer, on behalf of  
21 the department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-28, 4-31,  
22 4-31a and 4b-22, real property, personal property, securities, other  
23 choses in action and moneys, or any interest therein, and income  
24 therefrom, either absolutely or in trust, for any purpose of the  
25 department. The department may acquire or receive such property or  
26 money for its purposes by the acceptance of state or federal or public or  
27 private loans, contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or  
28 devises, and the department shall deposit or credit the same in the  
29 culture and tourism account established under section 10-395; (4) to  
30 establish a nonprofit foundation for the purpose of raising funds from  
31 private sources to encourage, within the state or in association with  
32 other states, or both, participation in, and promotion, development,  
33 acceptance and appreciation of, artistic and cultural activities that shall  
34 include, but are not limited to, music, theater, dance, painting,  
35 sculpture, architecture, literature, films, heritage, historic preservation,  
36 humanities and allied arts and crafts. All funds received by the  
37 foundation shall be held in the manner prescribed by sections 4-37e to  
38 4-37j, inclusive; and (5) to perform such other acts as may be necessary  
39 or appropriate to carry out the objectives and purposes of the  
40 department. The General Assembly declares that all activities  
41 undertaken in carrying out the policies set forth in this chapter shall be  
42 directed toward encouraging and assisting, rather than in any way  
43 limiting, the freedom of artistic expression that is essential for the well-  
44 being of the arts. Said department shall maintain a survey of public and  
45 private facilities engaged within the state in artistic and cultural  
46 activities and determine the needs of the citizens of this state and the  
47 methods by which existing resources may be utilized, or new resources  
48 developed, to fulfill these needs. The department shall maintain a  
49 register of Connecticut artists. The name, town of residence and artistic  
50 medium of any such artist residing in Connecticut shall be entered in

51 the register by the department upon the artist's request.

52 Sec. 2. Section 10-401 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

54 The Department of Economic and Community Development shall  
55 establish and administer a special incentive grant program to provide  
56 financial assistance for artistic and cultural programs and activities  
57 pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-400, as amended by this act.  
58 The department shall identify strategic goals, establish metrics and  
59 establish an accountability structure for such grant program. No state  
60 funds appropriated to the department for the purposes of said program  
61 shall be disbursed unless one-third of the amount of such financial  
62 assistance consists of nonfederal funds raised and received by said  
63 department.

64 Sec. 3. Section 10-396 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

66 With respect to tourism activities, the Department of Economic and  
67 Community Development shall:

68 (1) Develop, annually update and implement a strategic marketing  
69 plan for the national and international promotion of Connecticut as a  
70 tourism destination;

71 (2) Develop a Connecticut strategic plan for new tourism products  
72 and attractions;

73 (3) Provide marketing and other assistance to the tourism industry;

74 (4) Ensure cooperation among the regional tourism districts;

75 (5) Within available appropriations, maintain, operate and manage  
76 the visitor welcome centers in the state;

77 (6) Within available appropriations, develop and administer a grant  
78 program to support programs and initiatives of entities primarily

79 engaging in activities relating to the tourism industry;

80 [(6)] (7) Develop and administer a program of challenge grants to  
81 encourage innovation and job development, provide incentives for  
82 coordinated activity consistent with the strategic marketing plan and  
83 stimulate the development of private funds for tourism promotion;  
84 [and]

85 [(7)] (8) Subject to available funds, assist municipalities to  
86 accommodate tourist attractions within such municipalities or within  
87 neighboring or adjoining municipalities; and

88 (9) Establish metrics and an accountability structure for tourism  
89 investments made by the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	10-400
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	10-401
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	10-396

**Statement of Purpose:**

To authorize the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide certain grants concerning arts, culture and tourism, and to require the department to identify strategic goals, establish metrics and establish an accountability structure for such grants.

*[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.]*