



Substitute House Bill No. 6756

Special Act No. 23-15

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S ROLE IN ADMINISTERING CERTAIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW PROCESSES.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to study the State Historic Preservation Officer's role in administering historic preservation review processes related to sections 22a-1 to 22a-1h, inclusive, of the general statutes and the regulations adopted thereunder, and to make recommendations concerning changes to such statutes and regulations. The study shall include, but need not be limited to, the development of recommendations concerning (1) the historic preservation consultation process; (2) timelines for historic preservation reviews; (3) definitions of the roles of parties involved in the historic preservation review process; (4) an outline of the steps in the historic preservation review process; (5) specific goals and outcomes of the historic preservation review process; and (6) an appeals process for municipalities to appeal determinations made by the State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to sections 22a-1 to 22a-1h, inclusive, of the general statutes and the regulations adopted thereunder, concerning the renovation or rehabilitation of historic buildings or properties.

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

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

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

(3) The State Historic Preservation Officer, or the officer's designee;

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

(5) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee;

(6) A representative of the Office of the Governor, who has expertise overseeing the administration of sections 22a-1 to 22a-1h, inclusive, of the general statutes and the regulations adopted thereunder, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

(7) A representative of the Council on Environmental Quality, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

(8) A representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of municipalities in the state, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group;

(9) A representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of small towns and communities in the state, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group;

(10) A representative of an organization that advocates for revitalizing historic commercial districts and downtowns in the state, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group;

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(11) A representative of a municipal historic preservation commission, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group;

(12) A representative of an association representing businesses and industries in the state, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group;

(13) Two municipal economic development officers, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group;

(14) A representative of a property development organization, who has expertise in construction and renovations, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group; and

(15) A representative of the brownfields working group established pursuant to section 32-770 of the general statutes, who shall be appointed by the chairpersons of the working group.

(c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) or (14) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

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

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

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce

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shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than February 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or February 1, 2024, whichever is later.