

# Senate

General Assembly

*File No.* 879

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1551

*Senate, May 12, 2025* 

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. OSTEN of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

# AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S SPENDING ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACTIVITIES.

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

- Section 1. Section 10-395 of the general statutes is repealed and the
   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 3 (a) There is established an account [within the General Fund] to be
- 4 known as the "culture and tourism account". The account shall contain
- 5 all moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, including,
- 6 <u>but not limited to, not less than ten per cent of the amounts received by</u>
- 7 the state from the tax imposed under subparagraph (I) of subdivision
- 8 (1) of section 12-408, as amended by this act.
- 9 (b) Moneys in the account shall be used for purposes including, but
- 10 not limited to, providing grants-in-aid to organizations engaging in or
- 11 promoting the arts, helping to make the state a destination for leisure
- 12 and business travelers, preserving and promoting historic resources and

#### 13 <u>interpreting and presenting the state's history and culture.</u>

Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of section 12-408 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025, and applicable to sales occurring on or after July 1, 2025*):

17 (1) (A) For the privilege of making any sales, as defined in 18 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-407, at retail, in this state 19 for a consideration, a tax is hereby imposed on all retailers at the rate of 20 six and thirty-five-hundredths per cent of the gross receipts of any 21 retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail or 22 from the rendering of any services constituting a sale in accordance with 23 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-407, except, in lieu of said 24 rate, the rates provided in subparagraphs (B) to (I), inclusive, of this 25 subdivision;

(B) (i) At a rate of fifteen per cent with respect to each transfer of
occupancy, from the total amount of rent received by a hotel or lodging
house for the first period not exceeding thirty consecutive calendar
days;

(ii) At a rate of eleven per cent with respect to each transfer of
occupancy, from the total amount of rent received by a bed and
breakfast establishment for the first period not exceeding thirty
consecutive calendar days;

(C) With respect to the sale of a motor vehicle to any individual who 34 35 is a member of the armed forces of the United States and is on full-time 36 active duty in Connecticut and who is considered, under 50 App USC 37 574, a resident of another state, or to any such individual and the spouse 38 thereof, at a rate of four and one-half per cent of the gross receipts of any 39 retailer from such sales, provided such retailer requires and maintains a 40 declaration by such individual, prescribed as to form by the 41 commissioner and bearing notice to the effect that false statements made 42 in such declaration are punishable, or other evidence, satisfactory to the 43 commissioner, concerning the purchaser's state of residence under 50 44 App USC 574;

(D) (i) With respect to the sales of computer and data processing
services occurring on or after July 1, 2001, at the rate of one per cent, and
(ii) with respect to sales of Internet access services, on and after July 1,
2001, such services shall be exempt from such tax;

(E) (i) With respect to the sales of labor that is otherwise taxable under
subparagraph (C) or (G) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section
12-407 on existing vessels and repair or maintenance services on vessels
occurring on and after July 1, 1999, such services shall be exempt from
such tax;

(ii) With respect to the sale of a vessel, a motor for a vessel or a trailer used for transporting a vessel, at the rate of two and ninety-ninehundredths per cent, except that the sale of a vessel shall be exempt from such tax if such vessel is docked in this state for sixty or fewer days in a calendar year;

(iii) With respect to the sale of dyed diesel fuel, as defined in
subsection (d) of section 12-487, sold by a marine fuel dock exclusively
for marine purposes, at the rate of two and ninety-nine-hundredths per
cent;

(F) With respect to patient care services for which payment is
received by the hospital on or after July 1, 1999, and prior to July 1, 2001,
at the rate of five and three-fourths per cent and on and after July 1, 2001,
such services shall be exempt from such tax;

(G) With respect to the rental or leasing of a passenger motor vehicle
for a period of thirty consecutive calendar days or less, at a rate of nine
and thirty-five-hundredths per cent;

(H) With respect to the sale of (i) a motor vehicle for a sales price exceeding fifty thousand dollars, at a rate of seven and three-fourths per cent on the entire sales price, (ii) jewelry, whether real or imitation, for a sales price exceeding five thousand dollars, at a rate of seven and three-fourths per cent on the entire sales price, and (iii) an article of clothing or footwear intended to be worn on or about the human body,

76 a handbag, luggage, umbrella, wallet or watch for a sales price 77 exceeding one thousand dollars, at a rate of seven and three-fourths per 78 cent on the entire sales price. For purposes of this subparagraph, "motor 79 vehicle" has the meaning provided in section 14-1, but does not include 80 a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of subparagraph (C) of this 81 subdivision, a motor vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating over 82 twelve thousand five hundred pounds, or a motor vehicle having a 83 gross vehicle weight rating of twelve thousand five hundred pounds or 84 less that is not used for private passenger purposes, but is designed or 85 used to transport merchandise, freight or persons in connection with 86 any business enterprise and issued a commercial registration or more 87 specific type of registration by the Department of Motor Vehicles;

(I) With respect to the sale of meals, as defined in subdivision (13) of
section 12-412, sold by an eating establishment, caterer or grocery store;
and spirituous, malt or vinous liquors, soft drinks, sodas or beverages
such as are ordinarily dispensed at bars and soda fountains, or in
connection therewith; in addition to the tax imposed under
subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, at the rate of one per cent;

94 (J) The rate of tax imposed by this chapter shall be applicable to all 95 retail sales upon the effective date of such rate, except that a new rate 96 that represents an increase in the rate applicable to the sale shall not 97 apply to any sales transaction wherein a binding sales contract without 98 an escalator clause has been entered into prior to the effective date of the 99 new rate and delivery is made within ninety days after the effective date 100 of the new rate. For the purposes of payment of the tax imposed under 101 this section, any retailer of services taxable under subdivision (37) of 102 subsection (a) of section 12-407, who computes taxable income, for 103 purposes of taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any 104 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, 105 as amended from time to time, on an accounting basis that recognizes 106 only cash or other valuable consideration actually received as income 107 and who is liable for such tax only due to the rendering of such services 108 may make payments related to such tax for the period during which 109 such income is received, without penalty or interest, without regard to

110 when such service is rendered;

111 (K) (i) For calendar quarters ending on or after September 30, 2019, 112 the commissioner shall deposit into the regional planning incentive 113 account, established pursuant to section 4-66k, six and seven-tenths per 114 cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under 115 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision and ten and seven-tenths per cent 116 of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under 117 subparagraph (G) of this subdivision;

(ii) For calendar quarters ending on or after September 30, 2018, the
commissioner shall deposit into the Tourism Fund established under
section 10-395b ten per cent of the amounts received by the state from
the tax imposed under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision;

(iii) For calendar quarters ending on or after September 30, 2025, the
 commissioner shall deposit into the culture and tourism account
 established under section 10-395, as amended by this act, ten per cent of
 the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
 subparagraph (I) of this subdivision;

(L) (i) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2021, but
prior to July 1, 2023, the commissioner shall deposit into the municipal
revenue sharing account established pursuant to section 4-66*l* seven and
nine-tenths per cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax
imposed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, including such
amounts received on or after July 1, 2023, attributable to the fiscal year
ending June 30, 2023; and

(ii) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2023, the
commissioner shall deposit into the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund
established pursuant to section 4-66p seven and nine-tenths per cent of
the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; and

(M) (i) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2017, thecommissioner shall deposit into the Special Transportation Fund

141 established under section 13b-68 seven and nine-tenths per cent of the
142 amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
143 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision;

(ii) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2018, but
prior to July 1, 2019, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 eight per cent of
the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the sale of a motor
vehicle;

(iii) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2019, but
prior to July 1, 2020, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 seventeen per
cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the sale of a motor
vehicle;

(iv) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2020, but
prior to July 1, 2021, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 twenty-five per
cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the sale of a motor
vehicle;

(v) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2021, but
prior to July 1, 2022, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 seventy-five per
cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the sale of a motor
vehicle; and

(vi) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2022, the
commissioner shall deposit into the Special Transportation Fund
established under section 13b-68 one hundred per cent of the amounts
received by the state from the tax imposed under subparagraphs (A)
and (H) of this subdivision on the sale of a motor vehicle.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of section 12-411 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
2025, and applicable to sales occurring on or after July 1, 2025):

176 (1) (A) An excise tax is hereby imposed on the storage, acceptance, 177 consumption or any other use in this state of tangible personal property 178 purchased from any retailer for storage, acceptance, consumption or any 179 other use in this state, the acceptance or receipt of any services 180 constituting a sale in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) 181 of section 12-407, purchased from any retailer for consumption or use in 182 this state, or the storage, acceptance, consumption or any other use in 183 this state of tangible personal property which has been manufactured, 184 fabricated, assembled or processed from materials by a person, either 185 within or without this state, for storage, acceptance, consumption or any 186 other use by such person in this state, to be measured by the sales price 187 of materials, at the rate of six and thirty-five-hundredths per cent of the 188 sales price of such property or services, except, in lieu of said rate:

(B) (i) At a rate of fifteen per cent of the rent paid to a hotel or lodging
house for the first period not exceeding thirty consecutive calendar
days;

(ii) At a rate of eleven per cent of the rent paid to a bed and breakfast
establishment for the first period not exceeding thirty consecutive
calendar days;

195 (C) With respect to the storage, acceptance, consumption or use in 196 this state of a motor vehicle purchased from any retailer for storage, 197 acceptance, consumption or use in this state by any individual who is a 198 member of the armed forces of the United States and is on full-time 199 active duty in Connecticut and who is considered, under 50 App USC 200 574, a resident of another state, or to any such individual and the spouse 201 of such individual at a rate of four and one-half per cent of the sales price 202 of such vehicle, provided such retailer requires and maintains a 203 declaration by such individual, prescribed as to form by the 204 commissioner and bearing notice to the effect that false statements made in such declaration are punishable, or other evidence, satisfactory to the 205

206 207	commissioner, concerning the purchaser's state of residence under 50 App USC 574;
208	(D) (i) With respect to the acceptance or receipt in this state of labor
209	that is otherwise taxable under subparagraph (C) or (G) of subdivision $(G)$
210	(2) of subsection (a) of section 12-407 on existing vessels and repair or
211	maintenance services on vessels occurring on and after July 1, 1999, such
212	services shall be exempt from such tax;
213	(ii) (I) With respect to the storage, acceptance or other use of a vessel
214	in this state, at the rate of two and ninety-nine-hundredths per cent,
215	except that such storage, acceptance or other use shall be exempt from
216	such tax if such vessel is docked in this state for sixty or fewer days in a
217	calendar year;
218	(II) With respect to the storage, acceptance or other use of a motor for
219	a vessel or a trailer used for transporting a vessel in this state, at the rate
220	of two and ninety-nine-hundredths per cent;
221	(III) With respect to the storage, acceptance or other use of dyed diesel
222	fuel, as defined in subsection (d) of section 12-487, exclusively for
223	marine purposes, at the rate of two and ninety-nine-hundredths per
224	cent;
225	(E) (i) With respect to the acceptance or receipt in this state of
226	computer and data processing services purchased from any retailer for
227	consumption or use in this state occurring on or after July 1, 2001, at the
228	rate of one per cent of such services, and (ii) with respect to the
229	acceptance or receipt in this state of Internet access services, on and after
230	July 1, 2001, such services shall be exempt from such tax;
231	(F) With respect to the acceptance or receipt in this state of patient

(F) With respect to the acceptance or receipt in this state of patient care services purchased from any retailer for consumption or use in this state for which payment is received by the hospital on or after July 1, 1999, and prior to July 1, 2001, at the rate of five and three-fourths per cent and on and after July 1, 2001, such services shall be exempt from such tax; (G) With respect to the rental or leasing of a passenger motor vehicle
for a period of thirty consecutive calendar days or less, at a rate of nine
and thirty-five-hundredths per cent;

240 (H) With respect to the acceptance or receipt in this state of (i) a motor 241 vehicle for a sales price exceeding fifty thousand dollars, at a rate of 242 seven and three-fourths per cent on the entire sales price, (ii) jewelry, 243 whether real or imitation, for a sales price exceeding five thousand 244 dollars, at a rate of seven and three-fourths per cent on the entire sales 245 price, and (iii) an article of clothing or footwear intended to be worn on or about the human body, a handbag, luggage, umbrella, wallet or 246 247 watch for a sales price exceeding one thousand dollars, at a rate of seven 248 and three-fourths per cent on the entire sales price. For purposes of this 249 subparagraph, "motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in section 14-250 1, but does not include a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of 251 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, a motor vehicle having a gross 252 vehicle weight rating over twelve thousand five hundred pounds, or a 253 motor vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating of twelve thousand 254 five hundred pounds or less that is not used for private passenger 255 purposes, but is designed or used to transport merchandise, freight or 256 persons in connection with any business enterprise and issued a 257 commercial registration or more specific type of registration by the 258 Department of Motor Vehicles;

(I) With respect to the acceptance or receipt in this state of meals, as defined in subdivision (13) of section 12-412, sold by an eating establishment, caterer or grocery store; and spirituous, malt or vinous liquors, soft drinks, sodas or beverages such as are ordinarily dispensed at bars and soda fountains, or in connection therewith; in addition to the tax imposed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, at the rate of one per cent;

(J) (i) For calendar quarters ending on or after September 30, 2019, the
commissioner shall deposit into the regional planning incentive
account, established pursuant to section 4-66k, six and seven-tenths per
cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under

subparagraph (B) of this subdivision and ten and seven-tenths per cent
of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraph (G) of this subdivision;

(ii) For calendar quarters ending on or after September 30, 2018, the
commissioner shall deposit into the Tourism Fund established under
section 10-395b ten per cent of the amounts received by the state from
the tax imposed under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision;

(K) (i) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2021, but
prior to July 1, 2023, the commissioner shall deposit into the municipal
revenue sharing account established pursuant to section 4-66*l* seven and
nine-tenths per cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax
imposed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, including such
amounts received on or after July 1, 2023, attributable to the fiscal year
ending June 30, 2023; [and]

(ii) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2023, the
commissioner shall deposit into the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund
established pursuant to section 4-66p seven and nine-tenths per cent of
the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; [and]

(iii) For calendar quarters ending on or after September 30, 2025, the
 commissioner shall deposit into the culture and tourism account
 established under section 10-395, as amended by this act, one per cent
 of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
 subparagraph (I) of this subdivision;

(L) (i) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2017, the
commissioner shall deposit into said Special Transportation Fund seven
and nine-tenths per cent of the amounts received by the state from the
tax imposed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision;

(ii) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2018, but
prior to July 1, 2019, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 eight per cent of

the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the acceptance or
receipt in this state of a motor vehicle;

(iii) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2019, but
prior to July 1, 2020, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 seventeen per
cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the acceptance or
receipt in this state of a motor vehicle;

(iv) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2020, but
prior to July 1, 2021, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 twenty-five per
cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the acceptance or
receipt in this state of a motor vehicle;

(v) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2021, but
prior to July 1, 2022, the commissioner shall deposit into the Special
Transportation Fund established under section 13b-68 seventy-five per
cent of the amounts received by the state from the tax imposed under
subparagraphs (A) and (H) of this subdivision on the acceptance or
receipt in this state of a motor vehicle; and

(vi) For calendar months commencing on or after July 1, 2022, the
commissioner shall deposit into the Special Transportation Fund
established under section 13b-68 one hundred per cent of the amounts
received by the state from the tax imposed under subparagraphs (A)
and (H) of this subdivision on the acceptance or receipt in this state of a
motor vehicle.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Each organization receiving a grant-in-aid from the Department of Economic and Community Development using moneys deposited in the culture and tourism account, established under section 10-395 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for activities relating to arts, culture, tourism or humanities shall submit a detailed report to Connecticut Humanities
not later than six months after receiving such grant-in-aid. Such report
shall include information concerning the expenditure of grant funding
received by the department and the finances of the organization.

(b) Connecticut Humanities shall report to the joint standing
committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and
commerce on the information received pursuant to subsection (a) of this
section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:					
Section 1	from passage	10-395			
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025, and applicable to sales occurring on or after July 1, 2025	12-408(1)			
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025, and applicable to sales occurring on or after July 1, 2025	12-411(1)			
Sec. 4	July 1, 2025	New section			

# APP Joint Favorable

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 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue	\$11 million	\$11.3
	Loss		million
Department of Economic &	Culture and	\$11 million	\$11.3
Community Development	Tourism Account		million
	- Revenue Gain		

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

#### Municipal Impact: None

#### Explanation

The bill diverts 10% of the revenue from the 1% meals and beverage tax to the culture and tourism account, a non-appropriated account, beginning in FY 26. This results in an estimated revenue loss of \$11 million in FY 26 and \$11.3 million in FY 27 to the General Fund and a corresponding revenue gain of \$11 million in FY 26 and \$11.3 million in FY 27 to the culture and tourism account.

#### The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

#### **OFA Bill Analysis**

SB 1551

#### AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S SPENDING ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACTIVITIES.

#### SUMMARY:

This bill diverts 10% of the revenue from the 1% meals and beverage tax to the "culture and tourism account," a non-appropriated account, each quarter, starting with the quarter ending on September 30, 2025. The bill also requires any organization that receives a grant-in-aid through the culture and tourism account to submit a detailed expenditure report to Connecticut Humanities, a nonprofit entity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, and applicable to sales occurring on or after that date, except Section 1 which is effective from passage.

# §§ 1 – 3 – CULTURE AND TOURISM ACCOUNT

The bill requires 10% of revenue from the 1% meals and beverage tax to the "culture and tourism account." The bill specifies that the funding is to be used to provide grants-in-aid to organizations engaging in or promoting the arts, helping to make the state a destination for leisure and business travelers, preserving and promoting historic resources and interpreting and presenting the state's history and culture.

The bill also clarifies that the culture and tourism account is a nonappropriated account.

# § 4 – CULTURE AND TOURISM GRANTS-IN-AID REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The bill requires any organization that receives a grant-in-aid from the Department of Economic and Community Development through the culture and tourism account to submit a detailed report to Connecticut Humanities not later than six months after receiving such grant-in-aid. The report must include information concerning the expenditure of grant funding and the finances of the organization.

Connecticut Humanities must report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and commerce on the information received from these grant recipient organizations.

#### BACKGROUND

#### 1% Meals and Beverage Tax

The 1% meals and beverage tax applies in addition to the state's 6.35% sales and use tax, for a combined 7.35% tax on these sales.

By law, the tax applies to sales of (1) meals sold by eating establishments, caterers, or grocery stores and (2) liquors, soft drinks, sodas, and beverages ordinarily dispensed at, or in connection with, bars and soda fountains. A "meal" is food sold in ready-to-eat form or wrapped as "take-out" or "to-go" to be eaten elsewhere. An "eating establishment" includes a restaurant, cafeteria, grinder shop, pizzeria, drive-in, fast food outlet, ice cream truck, hot dog cart, refreshment stand, sandwich shop, private and social club, cocktail lounge, tavern, diner, snack bar, and hotel or boarding house that furnishes both lodging and meals to its guests (CGS § 12-412(13)).

#### **Related Bills**

HB 1456, favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, also diverts 10% of the revenue from the 1% meals and beverage tax but to the Tourism Fund instead.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Yea 48 Nay 6 (04/24/2025)