



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 314

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5243

House of Representatives, April 1, 2026

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. MESKERS of the 150th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM PLAN FOR THE GREATER MYSTIC AREA.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
2 group to develop a plan relating to economic development and tourism
3 in the greater Mystic area. Such plan shall include, but need not be
4 limited to, an examination of (1) the potential federal, state or other
5 sources of funding for the restoration of any breakwater located in
6 Stonington Harbor, (2) transportation options to ease traffic congestion
7 and alleviate parking pressure, and (3) potential easements and
8 infrastructure improvements to enhance accessibility and coastal
9 resiliency. For the purposes of this subsection, "the greater Mystic area"
10 means the towns of Groton and Stonington.

11 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members: (1) The
12 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of
13 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to

14 commerce, or their designees; (2) the Commissioner of Economic and
 15 Community Development, or the commissioner's designee; (3) the
 16 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the
 17 commissioner's designee; (4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or
 18 the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Agriculture, or
 19 the commissioner's designee; (6) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
 20 Management, or the secretary's designee; (7) the chief elected official of
 21 Groton, or the official's designee; (8) the chief elected official of
 22 Stonington, or the official's designee; and (9) any individuals the
 23 chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 24 having cognizance of matters relating to commerce deem relevant and
 25 necessary to carry out the duties of the working group, including, but
 26 not limited to, a representative of the local traffic authority of the town
 27 of Groton and a representative of the local traffic authority of the town
 28 of Stonington.

29 (c) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 30 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
 31 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

32 (d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit a
 33 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
 34 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 35 relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
 36 of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date
 37 that it submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact by establishing a working group to develop a plan related to economic development and tourism in the greater Mystic area. It is anticipated that the members of the working group will have the expertise necessary or consult with any persons or experts needed, as allowed by the bill, to complete the plan.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None



OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5243

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM PLAN FOR THE GREATER MYSTIC AREA.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)