

HB 489-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0371

04/10

HOUSE BILL ***489-FN-A***

AN ACT establishing a county tourism development fund administered by the department of business and economic affairs and making an appropriation therefor.

SPONSORS: Rep. Aron, Sull. 4; Rep. B. Sullivan, Sull. 1; Rep. Rollins, Sull. 3; Rep. Drye, Sull. 7; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a county tourism development fund administered by the department of business and economic affairs and makes an appropriation therefor. The bill also establishes a county tourism grant program funded from tax on meals and rooms income.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT establishing a county tourism development fund administered by the department of business and economic affairs and making an appropriation therefor.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Department of Business and Economic Affairs; County Tourism Development
2 Fund. Amend RSA 12-O by inserting after section 16 the following new section:

3 12-O:16-a County Tourism Development Fund.

4 I.(a) There is hereby established in the treasury a nonlapsing fund to be known as the
5 county tourism development fund. Any appropriations received shall be credited to the fund and
6 shall be continually appropriated for the uses specified in this section. The fund shall be
7 administered by the division of travel and tourism development. Moneys in the fund and any
8 interest earned on the fund shall be used for the purpose of promoting and developing county
9 tourism initiatives through the division of travel and tourism development and shall not be used for
10 any other purpose. The director of travel and tourism development shall oversee expenditures from
11 the fund.

12 (b) The fund balance in any fiscal year shall not exceed \$750,000. Each fiscal year, the
13 director of the division of travel and tourism development shall determine the amount needed to
14 maintain the fund balance at \$750,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year and shall include such
15 amounts in the department's efficiency expenditure report pursuant to RSA 9:4.

16 II.(a) Not more than \$75,000 per fiscal year shall be available for each of the counties in the
17 state through a grant program to be established by the director of the division of travel and tourism
18 development, department of business and economic affairs. Funds from the grant program shall be
19 used for county tourism development programs, to help counties with efforts they may have for
20 establishment of new tourism regions, place-making efforts, business and recreation development,
21 and other activities designed to increase their tourist and business dollars. The director may
22 allocate funding to counties, at his or her discretion, based on a county's specific need. The director
23 shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the implementation and administration of the
24 grant program, including necessary forms, applications, information required, review of applications,
25 deadlines, notification to applicants, and distribution of funds.

26 II.(a) Funding for the grant program established under this paragraph shall be from funds
27 credited to the division under RSA 12-O:11-b from meals and rooms tax revenues.

28 2 Division of Travel and Tourism; County Tourism Development Program. The sum of \$750,000
29 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is hereby appropriated to the department of business and
30 economic affairs, division of travel and tourism for the purposes specified in RSA 12-O:16-a. The

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1 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
2 otherwise appropriated.

3 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 489-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing a county tourism development fund administered by the department of business and economic affairs and making an appropriation therefor.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Appropriation	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Up to \$750,000	Up to \$750,000	Up to \$750,000
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - County Tourism Development Fund			

COUNTY:

Revenue	\$0	Up to \$750,000	Up to \$750,000	Up to \$750,000
Expenditures	\$0	Up to \$750,000	Up to \$750,000	Up to \$750,000

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes a county tourism development fund and county tourism development program administered by the Department of Business and Economic Affairs. The bill makes an initial general fund appropriation of \$750,000 to the Department in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for the fund and program. The fund will be a nonlapsing, continually appropriated fund from which grants for county tourism development programs will be available to each county. The Fund balance in any fiscal year shall not exceed \$750,000. Each county shall be eligible for grants of up to \$75,000 per fiscal year. The Director of the Division of Travel and Tourism Development shall determine the amount needed to maintain the fund balance at \$750,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year and shall request such amounts as part of the Department's efficiency expenditure request pursuant to RSA 9:4. Funding for such requests shall be from the amounts credited to the division under RSA 12-O:11-b from meals and rooms tax revenues.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

None