

# Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1178

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF AN INTERNET WEB SITE MAINTAINED  
**Title:** BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2025

**Vote Action:** JOINT FAVORABLE Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/11/2025

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Sen. Mae Flexer, 29<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Greg Haddad, 54<sup>th</sup> District.

Sen. MD Rahman, 4<sup>th</sup> District.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The purpose of this bill is to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the Department of Economic and Community Development's (ECD) website, which provides information on state resources available to small businesses. By conducting a study on its usability, user experience, and website traffic, the bill aims to ensure the site is user-friendly, comprehensive, and efficient for small business owners seeking state resources. The findings and recommendations from the study will help enhance the website, making it a more valuable tool for supporting small businesses in Connecticut.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Alexa Martindale](#): She expresses gratitude for Make Haven, a community space in New Haven that provides both the equipment and social environment needed to create art. With limited space and no budget for equipment at home, Make Haven allows her to fulfill her creative and social needs, contributing to their overall happiness and well-being.

[Sara Mendillo, Middlesex Chamber of Commerce](#): The organization strongly supports the creation of a centralized online platform to streamline access to resources and information for small businesses in Connecticut. This platform would consolidate services from key state agencies like the DECD, DAS, DOL, and the Secretary of State, making it easier for businesses to navigate various resources. By providing a user-friendly portal, it would help small businesses access critical support in areas such as funding, compliance, and workforce development. The platform would also improve efficiency for state agencies and foster economic growth, making it easier for small businesses to succeed.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

[Daniel O'Keefe, Chief Innovation Officer, Department of Economic and Community Development](#): Senate Bill 1178 proposes creating a central website to consolidate resources for small businesses from the Secretary of the State, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Labor, and DECD. The State of Connecticut already has a one-stop business portal, business.ct.gov, and DECD and other agencies are open to recommendations for improving the portal.

**Reported by: Austin Adil**

**Date: 3/25/2025**