



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1179

January Session, 2025



***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY
MAKERSPACE INITIATIVE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Financial assistance" means any and all forms of grants, loans or
4 other forms of financing.

5 (2) "Makerspace" means a community space that (A) provides access
6 to tools, technology or educational materials for entrepreneurs, (B)
7 results in the prototyping, creation, production or assembly of tangible
8 personal property, and (C) supports the development of educational
9 opportunities for personal growth, workforce training and early-stage
10 business ventures.

11 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Economic and
12 Community Development shall establish and administer a pilot
13 program to provide financial assistance to eligible entities for the
14 establishment or expansion of makerspaces in the state. The
15 commissioner shall (1) establish eligibility criteria and an application
16 process for the program, and (2) explore means of funding such
17 program, including, but not limited to, public-private partnerships,

18 grant programs and federal funds or state funds.

19 (c) Applications for participation in such pilot program shall be
20 submitted in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. Each
21 application shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) A description of
22 the makerspace the applicant is seeking to establish or expand; (2) the
23 amount of financial assistance requested by the applicant; and (3) any
24 other information the commissioner deems necessary.

25 (d) The total amount of financial assistance provided pursuant to the
26 program shall not exceed five million dollars. The total amount of
27 financial assistance provided to an eligible entity shall not exceed two
28 hundred fifty thousand dollars per fiscal year.

29 (e) The commissioner shall require each entity that receives financial
30 assistance pursuant to the program to submit a report to the
31 commissioner containing information regarding (1) the progress of the
32 establishment or expansion of the makerspace proposed in such entity's
33 application, and (2) any other information the commissioner deems
34 necessary. Each such entity shall submit such report not later than two
35 years after such entity receives financial assistance pursuant to the
36 provisions of this section.

37 (f) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the
38 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
39 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, containing an evaluation of the
40 operation and effectiveness of the program to the joint standing
41 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
42 relating to commerce.

43 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions
44 of section 32-7o of the general statutes, the Manufacturing Innovation
45 Advisory Board shall make available, to the Commissioner of Economic
46 and Community Development, one million dollars from the
47 Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund established pursuant to
48 section 32-7o of the general statutes, for the purpose of providing
49 financial assistance in accordance with section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*