



House Bill No. 5247

Public Act No. 26-131

AN ACT CONCERNING A TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) (1) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Governor may direct the Commissioner of Administrative Services to establish and administer, within available appropriations and in consultation with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, an online portal for the purpose of facilitating programs to pilot test technologies, products or processes in any agency of the state to determine whether any such technology, product or process may reduce operational costs in any state agency. Such portal shall be made available on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services.

(2) If, in the exercise of the commissioner's powers and duties pursuant to this section, the commissioner, in consultation with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated finds that (A) the use of a certain technology, product or process would promote operational cost reduction, and (B) the use of such technology, product or process would be feasible in the operations of a state agency and would not have any detrimental effect on such operations, the commissioner shall recommend that such agency undertake a pilot test during which such agency shall use such technology, product or process in the operations

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of such agency on a temporary basis. The purpose of such pilot test shall be to validate the effectiveness of such technology, product or process in reducing operational costs.

(3) The commissioner shall not recommend a pilot test program by a state agency for any such technology, product or process pursuant to this section unless the business that manufactures or markets the technology, product or process demonstrates that (A) the use of such technology, product or process by such agency will not adversely affect safety, (B) the technology, product or process is presently available for commercial sale and distribution or has potential for commercialization not later than two years following the completion of such pilot test by such agency pursuant to this section, (C) such technology, product or process was not developed by a business that is eligible to participate in such pilot test established pursuant to section 32-39e of the general statutes, (D) such business maintains documentation concerning any patent for such technology, product or process and any related intellectual property, and (E) such business is certified as a small contractor or a minority business enterprise by the Commissioner of Administrative Services pursuant to section 4a-60g of the general statutes.

(4) The commissioner shall evaluate the effectiveness of any pilot test conducted pursuant to this section. Not later than October 1, 2030, the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, concerning the findings of such evaluations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

(b) (1) The commissioner of each state agency may administer a program for pilot testing technologies, products or processes that promote operational cost reduction. The purpose of any such pilot test program shall be to validate the effectiveness of any such technology, product or process in reducing operational costs.

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(2) (A) A person who seeks to participate in such a program shall submit an application to the Commissioner of Administrative Services through the online portal administered by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and manner of such application. An applicant shall include in each application an assessment of the potential viability of a pilot test program for such technology, product or process at such agency. Such assessment shall be conducted by an independent consulting firm or a market research firm that specializes in market research for similar technologies, products or processes described in such application. Such independent consulting firm or market research firm shall be classified as a provider of services under the Department of Administrative Services industry code of 6000 for research and development services or the North American Industry Classification System code of 541910 for marketing research and public opinion polling.

(B) Any applicant selected to participate in a pilot test program pursuant to this section shall only participate in one such program for one state agency.

(c) Not later than ninety days after receipt of an application pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, shall evaluate any technology, product or process that is the subject of such application and make a recommendation pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section if such recommendation is deemed warranted by the commissioner.

(d) If the Commissioner of Administrative Services recommends that a state agency undertake a pilot test program pursuant to this section, such agency, notwithstanding the requirements of chapter 58 of the general statutes, may accept delivery of such technology, product or process and undertake such pilot test program during which such agency shall use such technology, product or process in the operations

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of such agency on a temporary basis. The commissioner of the state agency testing such technology, product or process shall determine the duration of such pilot test program, provided such duration shall be not less than thirty days and not more than sixty days.

(e) Any costs associated with the acquisition and use of such technology, product or process by a state agency for a pilot test program pursuant to this section shall be paid by the applicant. The acquisition of any technology, product or process for a pilot test program pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to be a purchase under the provisions of state procurement law. The applicant shall maintain records related to any such pilot test program, as required by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. Any proprietary information derived from such pilot test program shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-210 of the general statutes.

(f) If the commissioner of the state agency that tested such technology, product or process determines that the pilot test program sufficiently demonstrates that the technology, product or process promotes operational cost reduction, the commissioner of such agency may request that the Commissioner of Administrative Services (1) procure such technology for use by any state agency, and (2) make such procurement pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4a-58 of the general statutes. If the Commissioner of Administrative Services grants a request to procure such technology for any state agency, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall make information regarding such procurement available to all state agencies on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services.

(g) The commissioner of a state agency may identify a technology, product or process that meets the criteria described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section and that has been tested by a municipality and demonstrated to promote operational cost reduction. Such commissioner may file a request to the Commissioner of Administrative

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Services for a recommendation to test such technology, product or process in the state agency through the online portal administered by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Not later than thirty days after receipt of such request, the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, shall evaluate the technology, product or process and make a recommendation pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section. If the Commissioner of Administrative Services recommends such technology, product or process, such agency shall undertake a pilot test program in accordance with the provisions of subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of this section.