



Substitute House Bill No. 5467

Public Act No. 26-135

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONCIERGE SERVICES TO SMALL BUSINESSES.

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

Section 1. Section 32-9n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) There is established within the Department of Economic and Community Development an Office of Small Business Affairs. Such office shall aid and encourage small business enterprises, particularly those owned and operated by minorities and other socially or economically disadvantaged individuals in Connecticut. As used in this section, "minority" means: (1) Black Americans, including all persons having origins in any of the Black African racial groups not of Hispanic origin; (2) Hispanic Americans, including all persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; (3) all persons having origins in the Iberian Peninsula, including Portugal, regardless of race; (4) women; (5) Asian Pacific Americans and Pacific islanders; or (6) American Indians and persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and maintaining identifiable tribal affiliations through membership and

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participation or community identification.

(b) Said Office of Small Business Affairs shall: (1) Administer at least one regional office of the small business development center program within the Department of Economic and Community Development; (2) coordinate, with the director of the small business development center program, the flow of information within the technical and management assistance program within the Department of Economic and Community Development; (3) encourage Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated to grant loans to small businesses, particularly those owned and operated by minorities and other socially or economically disadvantaged individuals; (4) coordinate and serve as a liaison between all federal, state, regional and municipal agencies and programs affecting small business affairs; (5) administer any business management training program established under section 32-352 or section 32-355 as the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may determine; (6) provide a single point of contact for small businesses seeking financial and technical assistance from the state and quasi-public agencies; (7) coordinate all state funded revolving loan funds used to assist small businesses; and (8) establish, in cooperation with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, and within available appropriations, an informational web page with a list and links to all small business resources available and post them in a conspicuous place on the department's web site. The office shall update this information on its web site on at least a quarterly basis.

(c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall designate an existing employee of the Department of Economic and Community Development to be responsible for providing concierge services to small businesses in the state. For purposes of this subsection, "concierge services" includes, but is not be limited to, providing information and assistance relating to economic or community

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development projects or programs administered by the department.

[(c)] (d) On or after February 1, 2011, the Office of Small Business Affairs shall compile a summary of all small business activities and programs available and incorporate such summary into the report required pursuant to section 32-1m.