



House of Representatives

File No. 731

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 377)

House Bill No. 5247
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 28, 2026

AN ACT CONCERNING A TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM.

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

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

11 (2) If, in the exercise of the commissioner's powers and duties
12 pursuant to this section, the commissioner, in consultation with
13 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated finds that (A) the use of a certain
14 technology, product or process would promote operational cost

15 reduction, and (B) the use of such technology, product or process would
16 be feasible in the operations of a state agency and would not have any
17 detrimental effect on such operations, the commissioner shall
18 recommend that such agency undertake a pilot test during which such
19 agency shall use such technology, product or process in the operations
20 of such agency on a temporary basis. The purpose of such pilot test shall
21 be to validate the effectiveness of such technology, product or process
22 in reducing operational costs.

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

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

46 (b) (1) The commissioner of each state agency may administer a
47 program for pilot testing technologies, products or processes that

48 promote operational cost reduction. The purpose of any such pilot test
49 program shall be to validate the effectiveness of any such technology,
50 product or process in reducing operational costs.

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

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

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

76 (d) If the Commissioner of Administrative Services recommends that
77 a state agency undertake a pilot test program pursuant to this section,
78 such agency, notwithstanding the requirements of chapter 58 of the
79 general statutes, may accept delivery of such technology, product or

80 process and undertake such pilot test program during which such
81 agency shall use such technology, product or process in the operations
82 of such agency on a temporary basis. The commissioner of the state
83 agency testing such technology, product or process shall determine the
84 duration of such pilot test program, provided such duration shall be not
85 less than thirty days and not more than sixty days.

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

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Administrative Services	GF - Potential Cost	At least 68,100	At least 37,500
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	11,800	15,700

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost of at least \$89,900 in FY 27 and \$53,200 in FY 28 and each year thereafter to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by allowing the agency to administer a pilot test bed program. The costs to DAS include 1) one-time costs of \$50,000 in FY 27 to develop an online portal and 2) a 0.5 full-time equivalent staff at an annualized cost of \$53,200 (\$37,500 in salary and \$15,700 in fringe benefits) to administer the program.

There is also a potential cost to DAS to the extent that expert third party consultation is needed to fully evaluate an applicant's proposed test project. The actual cost will depend upon the type of project in the application. It is anticipated DAS will consult with experts in state agencies, such as Connecticut Innovations, when applicable, at no cost to the state.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

The bill requires any costs associated with the acquisition and use of a test project to be paid by the applicant. Any cost to implement a test project will therefore be incurred by the applicant and not the state.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5247 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING A TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM AND THE JOBSCT TAX REBATE PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill creates a process for state agencies to administer pilot test programs to test the effectiveness of certain technologies, products, or processes ("projects") at reducing operating costs. The bill creates an application process for small contractor or minority business enterprise applicants to submit projects for consideration, and allows an agency to temporarily use any project that the Department of Administrative Service (DAS) commissioner evaluates and recommends, subject to certain criteria. Under the bill, if an agency implements a pilot test program, the project applicant must pay any costs associated with the agency acquiring and using the project.

The bill also establishes a (1) process for procuring projects that a pilot test program has shown to promote operational cost reduction, including a waiver of competitive bidding or proposal requirements, and (2) way for agencies to ask the DAS commissioner to evaluate and recommend projects that have been tested by a municipality and shown to promote operational cost reduction.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill and, among other things, (1) allows the governor to require the DAS commissioner to create an online application portal for project applicants, (2) requires the DAS commissioner (rather than a board the underlying bill created) to evaluate and recommend projects, (3) requires post-testing procurements of projects to be made under a law that generally allows the DAS commissioner to waive competitive bidding or proposal

requirements, and (4) removes provisions from the underlying bill that would have made changes to the JobsCT Tax Rebate Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

APPLICATIONS

Until January 1, 2027, the bill allows the governor to direct the DAS commissioner, within available appropriations and in consultation with Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CI), to create and administer an online portal to facilitate programs to pilot test projects in any state agency to determine whether they may reduce the agency's operational costs. The portal must be available on the DAS website.

Under the bill, a person who wants to participate in a pilot test program must apply to the DAS commissioner through the online portal, and the commissioner must set the application form and manner. The application must include an assessment of the test project's viability for a pilot program, which must be done by an independent consulting firm or a market research firm that (1) specializes in technologies, products, or processes similar to those described in the application and (2) is a DAS research and development services provider or marketing research and public opinion polling provider under the North American Industry Classification System.

Under the bill, any applicant selected to participate in a pilot test program can only participate in one program for one state agency.

DAS EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Within 90 days after receiving the application, the DAS commissioner, in consultation with CI, must evaluate the project and recommend it for an agency pilot program if it meets the criteria described below and the commissioner deems the recommendation warranted.

Under the bill, the commissioner, in consultation with CI, must recommend that an agency have a pilot test to temporarily use a project if she finds that the project would (1) promote operational cost

reduction, (2) be feasible in the state agency's operations, and (3) not have any detrimental effect on the operations. The pilot test's purpose is to validate the project's effectiveness in reducing operational costs.

However, the bill expressly prohibits the commissioner from recommending a project unless the business that manufactures or markets it shows that:

1. using it will not adversely affect safety;
2. it is presently available for commercial sale and distribution, or it has potential for commercialization within two years after the pilot test program concludes;
3. it was not developed by a business that is eligible to participate in an existing state statutory program administered by CI for testing new or experimental technologies, products, or processes; and
4. if the test project or any related intellectual property is patented, the business maintains the associated documentation on it.

Additionally, the business that manufactures or markets it must be DAS-certified as a small contractor or a minority business enterprise (see BACKGROUND).

DAS Report

The bill requires the DAS commissioner to evaluate the effectiveness of any pilot test held under the bill and submit a report on its findings to the Energy and Technology Committee by October 1, 2030.

TEST PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The bill allows the commissioner of each state agency to administer a program for pilot testing projects that promote operational cost reduction.

Under the bill, if the DAS commissioner recommends that a state agency start a pilot test program for a project, the agency may

temporarily use it in the agency's operations. The agency's commissioner must determine how long to use the project, but it must be for between 30 and 60 days. The agency may accept delivery of the test project and begin the program, regardless of the laws on state purchases.

The bill requires the applicant to pay any costs associated with the agency acquiring and using the project. Under the bill, acquiring the project for the program is not a purchase under the state procurement law's provisions. The applicant must maintain records related to the test program as the DAS commissioner requires. Proprietary information derived from the test program is exempt from the state's Freedom of Information Act.

POST-TESTING PROCUREMENT

Under the bill, if the agency's commissioner determines that the pilot test program sufficiently shows that the project promotes operational cost reduction, then he or she may ask the DAS commissioner to (1) procure the test project for any agency to use and (2) make the procurement under a law that generally allows the DAS commissioner to waive competitive bidding or proposal requirements. If the DAS commissioner grants a request to procure a project for an agency, she must make information about the procurement available to all state agencies on the DAS website.

MUNICIPAL TEST PROJECTS

The bill also allows a state agency commissioner to identify a project that (1) meets the criteria the DAS commissioner must use to review other applications and (2) has been tested by a municipality and shown to promote operational cost reduction. The commissioner may file a request to test the project with the DAS commissioner through the online portal. Within 30 days after receiving the request, the DAS commissioner, in consultation with CI, must evaluate the project and make a recommendation using the same criteria described above. If the DAS commissioner recommends the project, the agency must begin a pilot test program under the same implementation and procurement

provisions described above.

BACKGROUND

Small Contractors and Minority Business Enterprises

By law, a “small contractor” is generally a:

1. contractor or subcontractor that (a) maintains its principal place of business in the state and (b) is registered as a small business in the federal database maintained by the U.S. General Services Administration, as required to do business with the federal government, or
2. nonprofit entity that (a) maintains its principal place of business in the state, (b) had gross revenues of \$20 million or less during its most recent fiscal year, and (c) is independent (generally not reliant on another entity in order to operate).

“Minority Business Enterprises” are generally small contractors with majority ownership by women, minorities, or people with disabilities. The owner must have (1) managerial and technical competence, (2) experience directly related to his or her principal business activities, and (3) the power to direct the enterprise’s management or policies (CGS § 4a-60g(a)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 3 (03/17/2026)