



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5467

LCO No. 2729



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS.

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

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 Section 32-9n of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

17 participation or community identification.

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

42 (c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
43 shall designate an employee of the Office of Small Business Affairs to be
44 responsible for providing concierge services to small businesses in the
45 state. For purposes of this subsection, "concierge services" includes, but
46 need not be limited to, providing information and assistance relating to
47 economic or community development projects or programs
48 administered by the Department of Economic and Community
49 Development.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	32-9n
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to designate an employee of the Office of Small Business Affairs to be responsible for providing concierge services to small businesses in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]