



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 307

LCO No. 2236



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:

(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
REVISIONS TO THE COMMERCE STATUTES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-1u of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Department of Economic and Community Development [,
4 through its Office of Film, Television and Digital Media,] shall serve as
5 a state-wide point of contact for all producers of film, television and
6 digital media productions requesting permission to (1) conduct film
7 production activities on state-owned property, including, but not
8 limited to, all state roads and highways, railroads and train stations,
9 state forests and parks, airports and seaports, hospitals and all
10 campuses of the public institutions of higher education in the state; and
11 (2) use any other state-owned real or personal property, except
12 courthouses and judicial branch facilities, for such purposes.

13 (b) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
14 may issue a state film permit, on a form designated by the

15 commissioner, to any person seeking to conduct film production
16 activities on such state-owned property. Such permit shall specify the
17 insurance coverage that the permittee shall be required to obtain, as
18 determined by the commissioner in consultation with the state's
19 Director of Insurance and Risk Management, with the state named as an
20 additional insured. No liability shall accrue to the state or any agency or
21 employee of the state for any injuries or damages to any person or
22 property that may result, either directly or indirectly, from such film
23 production activities of the permittee on such state-owned property.

24 (c) A state film permit shall identify the person requesting permission
25 to conduct film production activities on state property and indicate that
26 the permittee has provided documentation to the Department of
27 Economic and Community Development substantiating the permittee's
28 ability to conduct indemnified film production activities. Any permittee
29 seeking permission to conduct film production activities on property
30 controlled by a state agency, authority or institution shall present such
31 permit to such agency, authority or institution when the permittee
32 requests such permission. Following the presentment of such permit by
33 a permittee, such state agency, authority or institution may authorize
34 film production activities by the permittee on such property.

35 (d) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
36 pursuant to section 32-1p, shall establish guidelines to be used in
37 working with state agencies, authorities or institutions to implement the
38 provisions of this section. Such guidelines shall include, but not be
39 limited to: (1) An agency contact [at the Office of Film, Television and
40 Digital Media] for filing permit applications and for obtaining
41 information on permit requirements; (2) identification of each
42 individual within each respective state agency who shall be a point of
43 contact for an agency permit application; (3) a mandatory
44 preapplication review process to reduce permitting issues or conflicts
45 by providing guidance to applicants on (A) information required for
46 authorization or permit approval from the relevant state agencies,
47 authorities or institutions, (B) specifications for desired on-site

48 production and production-related activities, site suitability and
49 limitations, and (C) steps the applicant can take to ensure expeditious
50 permit application; (4) a single, coordinated production activity
51 description form, including an equipment checklist and personnel
52 roster; (5) a process by which the [Office of Film, Television and Digital
53 Media] Department of Economic and Community Development may
54 forward permit applications to other relevant state agencies, authorities
55 or institutions on behalf of an applicant; and (6) at the commissioner's
56 discretion, a permit fee structure.

57 (e) The [Office of Film, Television and Digital Media, at the request of
58 the] Commissioner of Economic and Community Development [,] may
59 request the assistance of any other agency, authority or institution of the
60 state to assist in providing information and assistance as may be
61 necessary to expedite [such office's] the duties and responsibilities
62 under this section. Each officer or employee of such other agency,
63 authority or institution of the state shall make reasonable efforts to
64 cooperate with the [Office of Film, Television and Digital Media]
65 Department of Economic and Community Development.

66 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 32-286 of the general statutes is
67 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
68 *passage*):

69 (c) (1) Any person described in subsection (b) of this section that seeks
70 an exemption under subsection (b) of this section shall submit an
71 application to the Commissioner of Economic and Community
72 Development, in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner. If
73 the commissioner approves such application, the commissioner shall
74 enter into an agreement with such person, provided such person
75 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that:

76 (A) The facility to be developed, acquired, constructed, rehabilitated,
77 renovated, repaired or operated will be used as a qualified data center;
78 and

79 (B) The qualified data center will make, on or before the fifth
80 anniversary of the date an agreement entered into pursuant to this
81 section becomes effective, a qualified investment of at least (i) fifty
82 million dollars if such qualified data center is located in an enterprise
83 zone designated pursuant to section 32-70 or a federal qualified
84 opportunity zone designated pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of
85 2017, P.L. 115-97, as amended from time to time, or (ii) two hundred
86 million dollars if such qualified data center is not located in an
87 enterprise zone or a federal qualified opportunity zone.

88 (2) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection shall:

89 (A) Be for a period of twenty years, unless extended under the
90 provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection, from the date an
91 agreement entered into pursuant to this section becomes effective,
92 which may be in the year in which the construction, rehabilitation,
93 renovation or repair of a qualified data center commences;

94 (B) Include a five-year qualifying period, from the date an agreement
95 entered into pursuant to this section becomes effective, for the
96 applicable qualified investment amount set forth in subparagraph (B) of
97 subdivision (1) of this subsection to be reached;

98 (C) Include the payment of an annual fee by the qualified data center,
99 to be determined annually by the commissioner and not to exceed fifty
100 thousand dollars, for the administrative and operational costs of the
101 [Office of Data Infrastructure Administration and Security established
102 under subdivision (5) of this subsection] tax credit program. Such fee
103 shall be paid by the qualified data center to the commissioner during
104 each year of such qualifying period or until the applicable qualified
105 investment amount set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
106 this subsection is reached, whichever is sooner;

107 (D) Include a detailed description of the capital project that is the
108 subject of the agreement;

109 (E) Provide that the provisions of the agreement shall be applicable,
110 within the time period such agreement is effective and for the remaining
111 duration of such time period, to any (i) subsequent owner of the
112 qualified data center, (ii) operator or affiliate of the operator of the
113 qualified data center, or (iii) colocation tenant, provided the facility
114 continues to be used as a qualified data center; and

115 (F) Include provisions for the assessment and payment of the taxes
116 exempted pursuant to such agreement and the rates or amounts of
117 penalties and interest to be imposed thereon, if the commissioner
118 determines that the requirements of the agreement or of a qualified data
119 center are not being met or have not been met.

120 (3) If a qualified data center makes a qualified investment of at least
121 (A) two hundred million dollars if such qualified data center is located
122 in an enterprise zone designated pursuant to section 32-70 or a federal
123 qualified opportunity zone designated pursuant to the Tax Cuts and
124 Jobs Act of 2017, P.L. 115-97, as amended from time to time, or (B) four
125 hundred million dollars if such qualified data center is not located in an
126 enterprise zone or a federal qualified opportunity zone, the
127 commissioner shall extend to thirty years the period for which an
128 agreement entered into pursuant to this section is effective.

129 (4) Any qualified data center that enters into an agreement pursuant
130 to this section and makes the applicable qualified investment amount
131 set forth in subdivision (3) of this subsection, and any operator or
132 affiliate of and colocation tenant of such qualified data center, shall be
133 exempt from any financial transactions tax or fee that may be imposed
134 by the state on trades of stocks, bonds, derivatives and other financial
135 products. The exemption under this subdivision shall be effective for a
136 period of thirty years from the date the construction, rehabilitation,
137 renovation or repair of a facility is completed, as determined by the
138 commissioner. The commissioner may incorporate the provisions of this
139 subdivision into the agreement entered into pursuant to this section or
140 amend an existing agreement with a qualified data center to incorporate

141 the provisions of this subdivision.

142 (5) [There is established an Office of Data Infrastructure
143 Administration and Security within the Department of Economic and
144 Community Development. The office] The department shall (A) serve
145 as the liaison between applicants and qualified data centers and other
146 state agencies, (B) provide assistance to applicants and qualified data
147 centers from the preapplication phase to the post-operational stage, and
148 (C) seek to ensure coordinated, efficient and timely responses to
149 applicants and qualified data centers.

150 Sec. 3. Section 32-726 of the general statutes is repealed and the
151 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

152 (a) As used in this section:

153 (1) "Jobs" means permanent, full-time equivalent positions, not
154 including construction jobs;

155 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and
156 Community Development;

157 (3) "Permit applications" means applications for state permits and
158 licenses; and

159 (4) "Permit ombudsman" means the [office of the] permit
160 ombudsman [established] designated within the Department of
161 Economic and Community Development under this section.

162 (b) (1) The commissioner shall [establish an office of the] designate a
163 permit ombudsman for the purpose of expediting review of permit
164 applications for projects that would (A) create at least one hundred jobs,
165 (B) create fifty jobs, if such project is to be located in an enterprise zone
166 designated pursuant to section 32-70, (C) be located in a brownfield, as
167 defined in section 32-760, (D) be compatible with the state's responsible
168 growth initiatives, (E) be considered transit-oriented development, as
169 defined in section 13b-79kk, (F) develop green technology business, (G)

170 develop bioscience business, (H) develop any of the state's federally
171 designated opportunity zones, or (I) meet the criteria set forth in
172 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Projects ineligible for review under
173 this section are projects for which the primary purpose is to (i) effect the
174 final disposal of solid waste, biomedical waste or hazardous waste in
175 this state, (ii) produce electrical power, unless the production of
176 electricity is incidental and not the primary function of the project, (iii)
177 extract natural resources, (iv) produce oil, or (v) construct, maintain or
178 operate an oil, petroleum, natural gas or sewage pipeline. For purposes
179 of this section, "responsible growth initiatives" includes the principles of
180 smart growth, as defined in section 1 of public act 09-230, and "green
181 technology business" means an eligible business with not less than
182 twenty-five per cent of its employment positions being positions in
183 which green technology is employed or developed and may include the
184 occupation codes identified as green jobs by the Department of
185 Economic and Community Development and the Labor Department for
186 such purposes. The permit ombudsman shall also assist and provide
187 guidance to bioscience businesses seeking to expedite the review and
188 approval of permits required by local zoning authorities.

189 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
190 subsection, the commissioner may, upon consideration of the economic
191 impact factors of the project that include, but are not limited to: (A) The
192 proposed wage and skill levels relative to those existing in the area in
193 which the project may be located, (B) the project's potential to diversify
194 and strengthen the state and local economy, (C) the amount of capital
195 investment, and (D) in the judgment of the commissioner, after
196 consultation with the Departments of Energy and Environmental
197 Protection, Transportation and Public Health that there is consistency
198 with the strategic economic development priorities of the state and the
199 municipality, deem projects eligible for expedited permitting pursuant
200 to this section.

201 (c) The Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection,
202 Transportation and Public Health shall each designate through existing

203 and available resources one or more staff members to act as a business
204 ombudsmen and a liaison between their [offices] departments and the
205 permit [ombudsmen] ombudsman. The Commissioners of Economic
206 and Community Development, Energy and Environmental Protection,
207 Transportation and Public Health shall enter into a memorandum of
208 understanding concerning each entity's responsibilities with respect to
209 the permit [ombudsmen] ombudsman and the process for expediting
210 eligible permit applications, which shall include appropriate
211 opportunities for public participation.

212 (d) The memorandum of understanding may provide for the waiver
213 or modification of procedural rules prescribing forms, fees, procedures
214 or time limits for the review or processing of permit applications under
215 the jurisdiction of those agencies. Notwithstanding any other provision
216 of the general statutes, to the extent feasible, the memorandum of
217 understanding shall provide for proceedings and hearings otherwise
218 held separately by the parties to be combined into one proceeding or
219 held jointly and at one location. Such waivers or modifications shall not
220 be available for permit applications governed by federally delegated or
221 approved permitting programs, the requirements of which would
222 prohibit, or be inconsistent with, such waivers or modifications. In no
223 event shall the memorandum of understanding waive requirements of
224 environmental statutes or regulations.

225 (e) The permit ombudsman may solicit assistance of volunteers from
226 the private sector, including a state-wide business association, the Office
227 of Responsible Growth and from an association representing small
228 businesses. Said volunteers may assist the permit ombudsman in
229 developing the guidelines established pursuant to subsection (f) of this
230 section.

231 (f) The permit ombudsman, subject to the approval of the
232 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, shall
233 establish, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, guidelines to be used
234 in working with state permitting authorities to implement the

235 provisions of this section. Guidelines shall include, but are not limited
236 to, the following: (1) An agency contact point for filing permit
237 applications and for obtaining information on permit requirements; (2)
238 identification of the individual or individuals within each respective
239 agency who shall be responsible for processing the expedited permit
240 application; (3) a mandatory preapplication review process to reduce
241 permitting conflicts by providing guidance to applicants on (A) the
242 permits needed from each agency, (B) specifications for site planning
243 and development, site suitability and limitations and facility design, and
244 (C) steps the applicant can take to ensure expeditious permit application
245 and local comprehensive plan amendment review; (4) a single,
246 coordinated project description form and checklist and an agreement by
247 state agencies to reduce the necessity that an applicant provide
248 duplicate information to multiple agencies; and (5) an application fee
249 structure for permit expedition.

250 (g) The permit ombudsman, at the request of the Commissioner of
251 Economic and Community Development, may request the assistance of
252 any other department, board, commission or other agency of the state to
253 assist in providing information and assistance as said permit
254 ombudsman determines necessary to expedite its duties and
255 responsibilities. Each officer or employee of such office, department,
256 board, commission or other agency of the state shall make reasonable
257 efforts to cooperate with the permit ombudsman.

258 (h) The expedited permitting process established pursuant to this
259 section shall not modify, qualify or otherwise alter existing agency
260 nonprocedural standards for permit applications, unless expressly
261 authorized by law. If it is determined that the applicant is not eligible to
262 use this process, the applicant may apply for permitting of the project
263 through the normal permitting processes.

264 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 32-1m of the 2026 supplement to the
265 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
266 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

267 (a) Not later than February first, annually, the Commissioner of
268 Economic and Community Development shall submit a report to the
269 Governor, the Auditors of Public Accounts and the joint standing
270 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
271 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, finance,
272 revenue and bonding and commerce, in accordance with the provisions
273 of section 11-4a. Not later than thirty days after submission of the report,
274 said commissioner shall post the report on the Department of Economic
275 and Community Development's web site. Such report shall include, but
276 not be limited to, the following information with regard to the activities
277 of the Department of Economic and Community Development and to
278 business assistance programs administered by Connecticut Innovations,
279 Incorporated, during the preceding state fiscal year:

280 (1) A brief description and assessment of the state's economy during
281 such year, utilizing the most recent and reasonably available data, and
282 including:

283 (A) Connecticut employment by industry;

284 (B) Connecticut and national average unemployment; and

285 (C) Connecticut gross state product, by industry.

286 (2) An analysis of the economic development portfolio of the
287 department, including, but not limited to, each business assistance or
288 incentive program, including any business tax credit or abatement
289 program, grant, loan, forgivable loan or other form of assistance,
290 enacted for the purpose of improving economic development. The
291 analysis shall include:

292 (A) The Internet web site address of the state's open data portal and
293 an indication of where the name, address and location of each recipient
294 of the department's assistance is published on the site along with the
295 following information concerning each recipient: (i) Business activities,
296 (ii) standard industrial classification codes or North American industrial

297 classification codes, (iii) whether the recipient is a minority or woman-
298 owned business, (iv) a summary of the terms and conditions for the
299 assistance, including the type and amount of state financial assistance
300 and job creation or retention requirements, (v) the amount of
301 investments from private and other nonstate sources that have been
302 leveraged by the assistance, and (vi) the amount of state investment;

303 (B) A portfolio analysis, including an analysis of the wages paid by
304 recipients of financial assistance by industry;

305 (C) An investment analysis, including (i) total portfolio value, (ii)
306 total investment by industry, (iii) portfolio dollar per job average, and
307 (iv) portfolio leverage ratio;

308 (D) An overview of the business assistance and incentive programs
309 administered by the department and an analysis of their estimated
310 economic impact on the state's economy. The analysis shall include, for
311 each business assistance or incentive program for which such data is
312 available, the number of new jobs created, the borrowing cost to the
313 state and the estimated impact of such program on annual state
314 revenues;

315 (E) An analysis of whether the statutory and programmatic goals of
316 each business or incentive program are being met, with obstacles to such
317 goals identified, if possible;

318 (F) (i) Recommendations as to whether any existing business
319 assistance or incentive program should be continued, modified or
320 repealed and the basis or bases for such recommendations, and (ii) any
321 recommendations for additional data collection by the state to better
322 inform future evaluations of such programs; and

323 (G) The methodologies and assumptions used in carrying out the
324 analyses under this subdivision.

325 (3) An analysis of the community development portfolio of the

326 department, including:

327 (A) The Internet web site address of the state's open data portal and
328 an indication of where the name, address and location of each recipient
329 of the department's assistance is published on the site along with the
330 following information concerning each recipient: (i) Amount of state
331 investment, (ii) a summary of the terms and conditions for the
332 department's assistance, including the type and amount of state
333 financial assistance, and (iii) the amount of investments from private
334 and other nonstate sources that have been leveraged by such assistance;
335 and

336 (B) An investment analysis, including (i) total active portfolio value,
337 (ii) total investments made in the preceding state fiscal year, and (iii)
338 total portfolio leverage ratio.

339 (4) An analysis of each business assistance or incentive program,
340 including any business tax credit or abatement program, grant, loan,
341 forgivable loan or other form of assistance, enacted for the purpose of
342 improving economic development, that (A) (i) had ten or more
343 recipients of assistance in the preceding state fiscal year, or (ii) credited,
344 abated or distributed more than one million dollars in the preceding
345 state fiscal year, and (B) is administered by the department or
346 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated. The analysis shall include:

347 (i) An overview of the business assistance or incentive program and
348 an analysis of its estimated economic effects on the state's economy,
349 including, for each program where such data is available, the number of
350 new jobs created and the estimated impact of such program on annual
351 state revenues;

352 (ii) An analysis of whether the statutory and programmatic goals of
353 each business assistance or incentive program are being met, with
354 obstacles to such goals identified, if possible;

355 (iii) Recommendations as to whether any such existing business

356 assistance or incentive program should be continued, modified or
357 repealed and the basis or bases for such recommendations, and any
358 recommendations for additional data collection by the state to better
359 inform future evaluations of such programs; and

360 (iv) The methodologies and assumptions used in carrying out the
361 analysis under this subdivision.

362 (5) A summary of the department's international trade efforts in the
363 preceding state fiscal year, and, to the extent possible, a summary of
364 foreign direct investment that occurred in the state in such year.

365 (6) A summary of the total social and economic impact of the
366 department's efforts and activities in the areas of economic and
367 community development, and an assessment of the department's
368 performance in terms of meeting its stated goals and objectives.

369 (7) With regard to the Connecticut Small Business [Express] Boost
370 program established pursuant to section 32-7g, as amended by this act,
371 data on (A) the number of small businesses that received assistance
372 under said program and the general categories of such businesses, (B)
373 the amounts and types of assistance provided, (C) the total number of
374 jobs on the date of application and the number proposed to be created
375 or retained, (D) the most recent employment figures of the small
376 businesses receiving assistance, (E) the default rate of small businesses
377 that received assistance under said program, and (F) the progress of the
378 lenders participating in said program in becoming self-sustainable.

379 (8) With regard to airport development zones established pursuant
380 to section 32-75d, a summary of the economic and cost benefits of each
381 zone and any recommended revisions to any such zones.

382 (9) An overview of the department's activities related to tourism, the
383 arts and historic preservation.

384 (10) An overview of the department's activities concerning digital

385 media, motion pictures and related production activity, and an analysis
386 of the use of the film production tax credit established under section 12-
387 217jj and the entertainment industry infrastructure tax credit
388 established under section 12-217kk, including the amount of any tax
389 credit issued under said sections, the total amount of production
390 expenses or costs incurred in the state by the taxpayer who was issued
391 such a tax credit and the information submitted in the report required
392 under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of section
393 12-217jj.

394 (11) A summary of the department's and the [office of the] permit
395 ombudsman's brownfield-related efforts and activities in the preceding
396 fiscal year.

397 (12) A summary of the department's dry cleaning establishment
398 remediation account activities in the preceding fiscal year.

399 Sec. 5. Section 32-761 of the general statutes is repealed and the
400 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

401 (a) [There is established, within the] The Department of Economic
402 and Community Development [, an Office of Brownfield Remediation
403 and Development. Such office shall be managed by a director,
404 appointed by the commissioner in accordance with section 5-198. In
405 addition to the other powers, duties and responsibilities provided for in
406 this chapter, the office] shall promote and encourage the remediation
407 and development of brownfields in the state. The [Office of Brownfield
408 Remediation and Development] department shall coordinate and
409 cooperate with state and local agencies and individuals within the state
410 on brownfield redevelopment initiatives, including program
411 development and administration, community outreach, regional
412 coordination and seeking federal funding opportunities.

413 (b) The [office] department shall:

414 (1) Develop procedures and policies for streamlining the process for

415 brownfield remediation and development;

416 (2) Identify existing and potential sources of funding for brownfield
417 remediation and develop procedures for expediting the application for
418 and release of such funds;

419 (3) [Establish an office and maintain] Maintain an informational
420 Internet web site to provide assistance and information concerning the
421 state's technical assistance, funding, regulatory and permitting
422 programs for brownfield remediation and development;

423 (4) Provide a single point of contact for financial and technical
424 assistance from the state and quasi-public agencies with regard to
425 brownfield remediation and development;

426 (5) Develop a common application to be used by all state and quasi-
427 public entities providing financial assistance for brownfield assessment,
428 remediation and development;

429 (6) Identify and prioritize state-wide brownfield development
430 opportunities, including, but not limited to, in consultation with the
431 [State Historic Preservation Office] state historic preservation officer,
432 municipal officials and regional planning organizations, the
433 identification of abandoned and underutilized mills that are important
434 assets to the municipalities or the regions in which such mills are
435 located;

436 (7) Develop and administer a communication and outreach program
437 to educate municipalities, economic development agencies, property
438 owners, potential property owners and other organizations and
439 individuals with regard to state programs for brownfield remediation
440 and redevelopment;

441 (8) At the [office's] department's discretion, enter into cooperative
442 agreements with economic development agencies and may, where
443 appropriate, make grants to such organizations for the purpose of

444 designing, implementing and supervising brownfield assessment and
445 cleanups, or making further subgrants, provided each subgrant is in
446 compliance with the terms and conditions of the original grant; and

447 (9) Create and maintain a web site independent of the department's
448 other web sites that is specifically dedicated to marketing and
449 promoting state-owned brownfields, and develop and implement a
450 marketing campaign for such brownfields and web site.

451 (c) [The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,
452 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Office of Policy and
453 Management and the Department of Public Health shall each designate
454 one or more staff members to act as a liaison between their offices and
455 the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development.] The
456 Commissioners of Economic and Community Development, Energy
457 and Environmental Protection and Public Health, the Secretary of the
458 Office of Policy and Management and the chief executive officer of
459 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated shall enter into a memorandum
460 of understanding concerning each entity's responsibilities with respect
461 to the [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development. The Office
462 of Brownfield Remediation and Development] Department of Economic
463 and Community Development brownfield and remediation activities.
464 The department may recruit two volunteers from the private sector,
465 including a person from the Connecticut chapter of the National
466 Brownfield Association, with experience in different aspects of
467 brownfield remediation and development. Said volunteers may assist
468 the [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development] department
469 in marketing the brownfield programs and redevelopment activities of
470 the state.

471 (d) The [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development]
472 department may call upon any other department, board, commission or
473 other agency of the state to supply such reports, information and
474 assistance as said [office] department determines is appropriate to carry
475 out its duties and responsibilities. Each officer or employee of such

476 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state is
477 authorized and directed to cooperate with the [Office of Brownfield
478 Remediation and Development] department and to furnish such
479 reports, information and assistance.

480 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 32-764 of the general statutes is
481 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
482 *passage*):

483 (a) Any recipient of a grant pursuant to subsection (b) of section 32-
484 763 or subsection (c) of section 32-9cc of the general statutes, revision of
485 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, shall not be liable under section 22a-
486 427, 22a-432, 22a-433, 22a-451 or 22a-452 for conditions pre-existing or
487 existing on the brownfield property as of the date of acquisition or
488 control, provided such recipient (1) did not establish, create, cause or
489 contribute to the discharge, spillage, uncontrolled loss, seepage or
490 filtration of such hazardous substance, material, waste or pollution that
491 is subject to remediation under section 22a-133k and funded by the
492 [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development or the]
493 Department of Economic and Community Development; (2) does not
494 exacerbate the conditions; and (3) complies with reporting of significant
495 environmental hazard requirements in section 22a-6u. To the extent that
496 any conditions are exacerbated, such recipient shall only be responsible
497 for responding to contamination exacerbated by its negligent or reckless
498 activities.

499 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 32-4r of the 2026 supplement to the
500 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
501 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

502 (e) Not later than January 1, 2024, [and annually thereafter,] the
503 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in
504 consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families, shall
505 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
506 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of

507 matters relating to commerce and children regarding the Youth Service
508 Corps grant program.

509 Sec. 8. Subsection (f) of section 32-7aa of the 2026 supplement to the
510 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
511 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

512 (f) Not later than [January] February 1, 2027, and annually thereafter,
513 the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the
514 provisions of section 11-4a, containing an evaluation of the operation
515 and effectiveness of the program to the joint standing committee of the
516 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.

517 Sec. 9. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 38a-88a of the
518 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
519 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

520 (3) (A) On or before July 1, 2010, the Commissioner of Economic and
521 Community Development shall begin to accept applications for
522 certification as an invest CT fund and for allocations of tax credits under
523 this subsection with allocation dates of June 30, 2015, or earlier. On and
524 after September 1, 2015, the commissioner shall accept applications for
525 certification as an invest CT fund and for allocations of tax credits under
526 this subsection with allocation dates of September 1, 2015, or later.
527 Applications shall include: (i) The amount of eligible capital the
528 applicant will raise; (ii) a nonrefundable application fee of seven
529 thousand five hundred dollars; (iii) evidence of satisfaction of the
530 requirements of the definition of "invest CT fund" pursuant to
531 subparagraph (G) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iv) an affidavit
532 by each taxpayer committing an investment of eligible capital; (v) a
533 business plan detailing (I) the approximate percentage of eligible capital
534 the applicant will invest in eligible businesses by the third, fifth, seventh
535 and ninth anniversaries of its allocation date, (II) the industry segments
536 listed by the North American Industrial Classification System code and
537 percentage of eligible capital in which the applicant will invest, (III) the

538 number of jobs that will be created or retained as a result of the
539 applicant's investments once all eligible capital has been invested, (IV)
540 the percentage of eligible capital to be invested in eligible businesses
541 primarily engaged in conducting research and development or
542 manufacturing, processing or assembling technology-based products,
543 and (V) a revenue impact assessment demonstrating that the applicant's
544 business plan has a revenue neutral or positive impact on the state; (vi)
545 a commitment to invest at least twenty-five per cent of its eligible capital
546 in green technology businesses; (vii) with respect to applications
547 submitted on or before June 30, 2015, a commitment to invest, by the
548 third anniversary of its allocation date, three per cent of its eligible
549 capital in preseed investments, and with respect to applications
550 submitted on or after September 1, 2015, a commitment to invest, by the
551 fourth anniversary of the allocation date, seven per cent of its eligible
552 capital in preseed investments, in consultation with Connecticut
553 Innovations, Incorporated, pursuant to the corporation's program for
554 preseed financing established pursuant to section 32-41x; and (viii) with
555 respect to applications submitted on or after September 1, 2015, a
556 commitment to invest at least three per cent of its eligible capital in
557 cybersecurity businesses and at least twenty-five per cent of its eligible
558 capital in eligible businesses located in municipalities with a population
559 greater than eighty thousand. The commissioner may require the
560 applicant to obtain a revenue impact assessment conducted by an
561 independent third party.

562 (B) (i) From October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2026, inclusive, an
563 applicant may submit to the commissioner a request, in such form and
564 manner prescribed by the commissioner, to consider as an eligible
565 business a business that does not have its principal business operations
566 in Connecticut. The commissioner may approve such a request if the
567 commissioner determines that such an approval would significantly
568 advance the objectives of the invest CT fund program, provided such
569 applicant complies with all other requirements under subparagraph (A)
570 of this subdivision.

571 (ii) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a
572 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on any
573 requests approved by the commissioner pursuant to subparagraph
574 (B)(i) of this subdivision during the period of October 1, 2024, to
575 September 30, 2025, inclusive, to the joint standing committee of the
576 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.
577 Not later than ~~January~~ February 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit
578 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on any
579 requests approved by the commissioner pursuant to subparagraph
580 (B)(i) of this subdivision during the period of October 1, 2025, to
581 September 30, 2026, inclusive, to the joint standing committee of the
582 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.
583 Such reports shall include, but need not be limited to, a list of the
584 applicants whose requests were approved by the commissioner and an
585 analysis of the benefit to and impact on the state resulting from such
586 approvals.

587 Sec. 10. Section 137 of public act 25-174 is repealed and the following
588 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

589 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
590 shall establish, within available resources, a program to provide grants-
591 in-aid to nonprofit organizations that own or operate cultural and
592 historic sites in the state for the purposes of making capital
593 improvements. The commissioner shall (1) develop eligibility criteria
594 and application forms, and (2) accept applications for such grants-in-aid
595 on a continuing basis.

596 (b) Not later than ~~January~~ February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter,
597 the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall
598 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
599 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
600 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and
601 bonding. Such report shall include (1) the number of applications
602 received by the commissioner during the previous calendar year for a

603 grant-in-aid pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2) the total
604 amount of funds requested in such applications.

605 Sec. 11. Section 32-7n of the general statutes is repealed and the
606 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

607 (a) There is established a Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board
608 that shall consist of the following members: (1) Four appointed by the
609 Governor; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
610 (3) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (4)
611 one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one appointed by
612 the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (6) one appointed
613 by the minority leader of the Senate; (7) one appointed by the minority
614 leader of the House of Representatives; (8) the Chief Workforce Officer,
615 or the officer's designee; and (9) the Commissioner of Economic and
616 Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who shall
617 serve as the chairperson of the advisory board. The advisory board may
618 consult with any individual or entity to accomplish its purposes. Each
619 appointed member shall (A) have skill, knowledge and experience in
620 industries and sciences related to aerospace, medical devices,
621 biotechnology, digital manufacturing, digital communication, [or]
622 semiconductors, advanced manufacturing or clean energy production;
623 (B) be a university or community college faculty member or a technical
624 high school teacher in, or hold a graduate degree in, a related discipline,
625 including, but not limited to, additive manufacturing and materials
626 science; (C) have manufacturing education and training expertise; or (D)
627 represent manufacturing related businesses or professional
628 organizations. Appointed members shall each serve a term that is
629 coterminous with the respective appointing authority. Each member
630 shall hold office until a successor is appointed. Any vacancy occurring
631 on the advisory board, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled
632 in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the
633 unexpired term.

634 (b) The chairperson shall call the first meeting of the advisory board

635 not later than September 30, 2014. The advisory board shall meet at such
636 times as the chairperson deems necessary.

637 (c) No member of the advisory board shall receive compensation for
638 such member's services, except that each member shall be entitled to
639 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
640 performance of such member's official duties.

641 (d) A majority of the members of said advisory board shall constitute
642 a quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any
643 power of the advisory board. The advisory board may act by a majority
644 of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in
645 attendance, for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any
646 power of the advisory board, except as otherwise provided in this
647 section.

648 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, it shall not
649 constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner, officer,
650 manager, shareholder, proprietor, counsel or employee of an eligible
651 recipient, or any individual with a financial interest in an eligible
652 recipient, to serve as a member of the advisory board, provided such
653 trustee, director, partner, officer, manager, shareholder, proprietor,
654 counsel, employee or individual shall abstain from deliberation, action
655 or vote by the advisory board concerning any matter relating to such
656 eligible recipient.

657 (f) Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive
658 meetings of the advisory board or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all
659 meetings of the advisory board held during any calendar year shall be
660 deemed to have resigned. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be
661 appointed for the unexpired term of the member whom such member is
662 to succeed in the same manner as the original appointment. If a vacancy
663 occurring on the advisory board is not filled within sixty calendar days,
664 the chairperson of the advisory board shall temporarily fill the vacancy
665 until the original appointing authority for such vacant membership

666 position makes an appointment.

667 Sec. 12. Subsection (n) of section 32-7o of the general statutes is
668 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
669 *passage*):

670 (n) Not later than [January 1, 2016] February 1, 2027, and annually
671 thereafter, the administrator shall provide a report of the activities of the
672 Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund to the Manufacturing
673 Innovation Advisory Board for the advisory board's review and
674 approval. Upon such approval, the [advisory board] administrator shall
675 provide such report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
676 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
677 cognizance of matters relating to commerce. Such report shall contain
678 available information on the status and progress of the operations and
679 funding of the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund and the
680 types, amounts and recipients of financial assistance awarded and any
681 returns on investment.

682 Sec. 13. Section 10-397c of the general statutes is repealed and the
683 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

684 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and
685 Community Development, for administrative purposes only, a
686 Connecticut Tourism Council. The council shall consist of (1) the
687 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
688 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Transportation, or
689 the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Energy and
690 Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, (4) thirteen
691 members appointed by the Governor, (A) one of whom shall represent
692 the lodging industry, (B) one of whom shall represent a chamber of
693 commerce, (C) one of whom shall represent a tourist attraction, (D) one
694 of whom shall represent the arts, (E) one of whom shall represent a
695 culturally diverse event or attraction, (F) one of whom shall represent
696 the heritage tourism industry, (G) one of whom shall represent the

697 airline industry, (H) one of whom shall represent the Connecticut
698 Airport Authority, (I) one of whom shall represent a convention center
699 and sports arena trade organization, (J) one of whom shall represent a
700 charter bus trade organization, (K) two of whom shall represent casino
701 gaming facilities, and (L) one of whom shall represent the Connecticut
702 Tourism Coalition, (5) fourteen members appointed as follows: (A)
703 Three by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall
704 represent the agritourism industry, one of whom shall represent the
705 convention center and coliseum industry and one of whom shall
706 represent the eastern regional tourism district established pursuant to
707 section 10-397, (B) two by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
708 shall represent the events industry and one of whom shall represent the
709 western regional tourism district established pursuant to section 10-397,
710 (C) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall
711 represent the marine trades industry and one of whom shall represent
712 the outdoor recreation industry, (D) three by the speaker of the House
713 of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the destination
714 shopping industry, one of whom shall represent the restaurant industry
715 and one of whom shall represent the central regional tourism district
716 established pursuant to section 10-397, (E) two by the majority leader of
717 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the
718 attractions industry and one of whom shall represent the lodging
719 industry, and (F) two by the minority leader of the House of
720 Representatives, one of whom shall represent the museum industry and
721 one of whom shall represent the tour and travel industry. All members
722 appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years. The terms
723 of all members appointed by members of the General Assembly shall be
724 coterminous with the terms of such members of the General Assembly.
725 Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings
726 of the council or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings of the
727 council held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned.
728 A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the
729 unexpired term of the member whom such member is to succeed in the
730 same manner as the original appointment. If a vacancy occurring on the

731 council is not filled within sixty calendar days, the chairperson of the
732 council shall temporarily fill the vacancy until the original appointing
733 authority for such vacant membership position makes an appointment.
734 The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall
735 serve as chairperson of the council.

736 (b) The council shall: (1) Adopt procedures for the operation of the
737 council; and (2) review and approve or recommend changes to the
738 strategic marketing plan developed by the Department of Economic and
739 Community Development pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b)
740 of section 10-392.]; and (3) not]

741 (c) Not later than [January 1, 2021] February 1, 2027, and annually
742 thereafter, the Department of Economic and Community Development
743 shall submit a report describing tourism promotion efforts by the state
744 and evaluating the strategic marketing plan], developed by the
745 Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant to
746 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-392,] to the joint standing
747 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
748 relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
749 4a.

750 Sec. 14. Subsection (g) of section 22a-200g of the 2026 supplement to
751 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
752 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

753 (g) Not later than February 15, 2026, and [biannually] biennially
754 thereafter, the council shall report on its work, findings and
755 recommendations to the Governor, the Office of Policy and
756 Management, and the joint standing committees of the General
757 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment,
758 energy and technology, higher education and commerce, in accordance
759 with the provisions of section 11-4a.

760 Sec. 15. Section 4-66aa of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
761 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

762 *passage*):

763 (a) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account to be known
 764 as the "Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account". The
 765 account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the
 766 account. The funds in the account shall be distributed every three
 767 months as follows: (1) Twelve dollars of each fee credited to said account
 768 shall be deposited into the agriculture sustainability account established
 769 pursuant to section 4-66cc and, then, of the remaining funds, (2) twenty-
 770 five per cent to the Department of Economic and Community
 771 Development to use as follows: (A) Four hundred seventy-five
 772 thousand dollars, annually, to supplement the technical assistance and
 773 preservation activities of the Connecticut Trust for Historic
 774 Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-93, and (B) the
 775 remainder to supplement historic preservation activities as provided in
 776 sections 10-409 to 10-415, inclusive; (3) twenty-five per cent to the
 777 Department of Housing to supplement new or existing affordable
 778 housing programs; (4) twenty-five per cent to the Department of Energy
 779 and Environmental Protection for municipal open space grants; and (5)
 780 twenty-five per cent to the Department of Agriculture to use as follows:
 781 (A) Six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars annually for the
 782 agricultural viability grant program established pursuant to section 22-
 783 26j; (B) six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars annually for the farm
 784 transition program established pursuant to section 22-26k; (C) one
 785 hundred twenty-five thousand dollars annually to encourage the sale of
 786 Connecticut-grown food to schools, restaurants, retailers and other
 787 institutions and businesses in the state; (D) ninety-three thousand seven
 788 hundred fifty dollars annually for the Connecticut farm link program
 789 established pursuant to section 22-26l; (E) fifty-nine thousand three
 790 hundred seventy-five dollars annually for the Seafood Advisory
 791 Council established pursuant to section 22-455; (F) fifty-nine thousand
 792 three hundred seventy-five dollars annually for the Connecticut Farm
 793 Wine Development Council established pursuant to section 22-26c; (G)
 794 thirty-one thousand two hundred fifty dollars annually to the

795 Connecticut Food Policy Council established pursuant to section 22-456;
796 and (H) the remainder for farmland preservation programs pursuant to
797 chapter 422. Each agency receiving funds under this section may use not
798 more than ten per cent of such funds for administration of the programs
799 for which the funds were provided.

800 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, if
801 the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park
802 Service is eliminated, or if the state allocation from such fund is fully
803 exhausted, up to fifty per cent of the funds distributed to the
804 Department of Economic and Community Development from the
805 Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account in any fiscal
806 year, including any balance in the account from prior fiscal years and
807 any anticipated allotments for the current fiscal year, may be used by
808 such department to pay wages or salaries of employees in the state
809 whose wages or salaries had previously been paid for from the Historic
810 Preservation Fund.

811 Sec. 16. Section 32-9n of the general statutes is repealed and the
812 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

827 maintaining identifiable tribal affiliations through membership and
828 participation or community identification.

829 (b) [~~Said Office of Small Business Affairs~~] The Department of
830 Economic and Community Development shall: (1) Administer at least
831 one regional office of the small business development center program;
832 [~~within the Department of Economic and Community Development;~~]
833 (2) coordinate, with the director of the small business development
834 center program, the flow of information within the technical and
835 management assistance program; [~~within the Department of Economic~~
836 ~~and Community Development;~~ (3) encourage Connecticut Innovations,
837 Incorporated to grant loans to small businesses, particularly those
838 owned and operated by minorities and other socially or economically
839 disadvantaged individuals; (4)] (3) coordinate and serve as a liaison
840 between all federal, state, regional and municipal agencies and
841 programs affecting small business affairs; [(5)] (4) administer any
842 business management training program established under section 32-
843 352, as amended by this act, or section 32-355, as amended by this act,
844 as the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may
845 determine; [(6)] (5) provide a single point of contact for small businesses
846 seeking financial and technical assistance from the state and quasi-
847 public agencies; [(7)] (6) coordinate all state funded revolving loan funds
848 used to assist small businesses; and [(8)] (7) establish, [~~in cooperation~~
849 ~~with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,~~
850 ~~and]~~ within available appropriations, an informational web page with a
851 list and links to all small business resources available and post them in
852 a conspicuous place on the department's web site. The [~~office~~]
853 department shall update this information on its web site on at least a
854 quarterly basis.

855 (c) On or after February 1, 2011, the [~~Office of Small Business Affairs~~]
856 department shall compile a summary of all small business activities and
857 programs available and incorporate such summary into the report
858 required pursuant to section 32-1m, as amended by this act.

859 Sec. 17. Section 32-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the
860 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

861 Each woman-owned business that receives a loan or loan guarantee
862 pursuant to section 32-351 shall participate in a business management
863 training program as designated by the commissioner. The commissioner
864 may establish a business management training program to be
865 administered by either the [Office of Small Business Affairs]
866 Department of Economic and Community Development or a nonprofit
867 corporation, as determined by the commissioner, and may arrange for
868 the participation of such other programs as the commissioner deems
869 appropriate in implementing the business management training
870 program. The commissioner may enter into a contract with a nonprofit
871 corporation to provide for the administration of the business
872 management training program pursuant to this section.

873 Sec. 18. Section 32-355 of the general statutes is repealed and the
874 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

875 Each minority-owned business that receives a loan or loan guarantee
876 pursuant to section 32-354 shall participate in a business management
877 training program as designated by the commissioner. The commissioner
878 may establish a business management training program to be
879 administered by either the [Office of Small Business Affairs]
880 Department of Economic and Community Development or a nonprofit
881 corporation, as determined by the commissioner, and may arrange for
882 the participation of such other programs as the commissioner deems
883 appropriate in implementing the business management training
884 program. The commissioner may enter into a contract with a nonprofit
885 corporation to provide for the administration of the business
886 management training program pursuant to this section.

887 Sec. 19. Section 32-357 of the general statutes is repealed and the
888 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

889 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, in consultation with the

890 Department of Economic and Community Development and the
891 Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc., shall develop and
892 implement a plan to increase the total of funds provided to state
893 businesses pursuant to the small business innovation research program,
894 as defined in section 32-344, and the small business technology transfer
895 program, as defined in section 32-344. Not later than January 1, 2022,
896 [and annually thereafter,] the Commissioner of Economic and
897 Community Development shall report, in accordance with the
898 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
899 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
900 and veterans' and military affairs, regarding such plan and its
901 implementation.

902 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 32-39m of the general statutes is
903 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
904 *passage*):

905 (a) Through the innovation place program described in section 32-
906 39k, the commissioner may:

907 (1) Review and evaluate applications for innovation place
908 designation submitted by entities pursuant to section 32-39l.

909 (2) (A) Approve applications for innovation place designation and
910 designate such approved applications as an innovation place. Such
911 approval may include modifications to an application, agreed to by the
912 applicant, as a condition for approval thereof. If no such application
913 meets the purposes set forth in section 32-39k or the criteria set forth in
914 this subdivision, the commissioner shall not approve any application for
915 innovation place designation. Preference shall be given to applicants
916 having (i) diverse partners, including, but not limited to, anchor
917 institutions, (ii) partnerships with entities located within the proposed
918 innovation place, and (iii) substantial private funding for expenses
919 associated with the development of the proposed innovation place in
920 relation to the amount of grant moneys requested.

921 (B) Award grants-in-aid to innovation entities, within available
922 funds, for the allowable grant expenses set forth in an agreement
923 described in this subparagraph. Prior to awarding any such grant-in-
924 aid, the commissioner shall (i) enter into an agreement with any such
925 innovation entity concerning allowable grant expenses and the
926 submission of an annual financial audit of grant expenditures to the
927 commissioner until all grant moneys have been expended by the
928 innovation entity, provided any such audit shall be prepared by an
929 independent auditor; (ii) confirm that a significant portion of the
930 underlying zoning of the proposed innovation place allows for mixed-
931 use development, including, but not limited to, housing, office and
932 retail; and (iii) confirm that no portion of a grant-in-aid awarded to an
933 innovation entity be given to an entity that is not part of the master plan
934 for the innovation place. If the commissioner finds that any such grant-
935 in-aid awarded is being used for purposes that are not in conformity
936 with the expenses allowed pursuant to this section, the commissioner
937 may require repayment of such grant-in-aid.

938 (C) No application may be designated as an innovation place by the
939 commissioner unless such application (i) is consistent with the purposes
940 set forth in section 32-39k, (ii) is for a proposed innovation place where
941 a significant portion of such proposed innovation place is located in an
942 existing or proposed mixed-use zoning district, (iii) was prepared in
943 collaboration with the local chamber of commerce or other industry
944 association and the municipal economic development department, or
945 similar municipal authority, of the municipality in which the proposed
946 innovation place is located, and (iv) is approved by majority vote of the
947 legislative body of the municipality in which the proposed innovation
948 place is to be located.

949 (D) In determining whether to approve an application for innovation
950 place designation, the commissioner shall consider, but such
951 consideration shall not be limited to: (i) Whether the entities partnering
952 together to implement and administer the proposed master plan are of
953 the quality to, and have demonstrated the commitment to, implement

954 and administer the master plan in a manner sufficient to achieve the
955 purposes set forth in section 32-39k; (ii) whether the geography of the
956 proposed innovation place is sufficiently compact to achieve the
957 purposes set forth in section 32-39k; (iii) whether the master plan is
958 sufficient to achieve the purposes set forth in section 32-39k and whether
959 such plan includes (I) sufficient measures to ensure walkability of the
960 geographic areas within the municipality that make up the proposed
961 innovation place; (II) sufficient measures to enhance regular
962 interpersonal interactions among residents, workers and visitors of the
963 proposed innovation place; (III) adequate and accessible public
964 transportation; and (IV) existing or proposed restaurants, affordable
965 housing options, retail spaces and public spaces, indoor or outdoor, that
966 provide adequate opportunity for interpersonal interaction; (iv) the
967 extent to which the master plan leverages private investment; (v) self-
968 sustainability of the innovation place after moneys granted by the
969 commissioner are fully expended; (vi) whether the underlying zoning
970 of the proposed innovation place provides for, or will be amended to
971 provide for, reduced minimum floor area for residential dwelling units;
972 and (vii) any other criteria the commissioner determines is relevant for
973 evaluating whether the proposed innovation place, if granted
974 innovation place designation, will achieve the purposes set forth in
975 section 32-39k.

976 [(E) The commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions
977 of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
978 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and
979 finance, revenue and bonding on or before September thirtieth annually,
980 regarding the grants-in-aid distributed pursuant to this section and
981 concerning the operation and effectiveness of the innovation place
982 program.]

983 (3) Publicize and post on the department's Internet web site the
984 deadline for applications for innovation place designation pursuant to
985 section 32-39l.

986 Sec. 21. Section 32-7q of the general statutes is repealed and the
987 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

988 (a) There is established a [Minority] First Generation and Emerging
989 Business Initiative Advisory Board to promote equitable growth and
990 generational wealth, which shall be within the Department of Economic
991 and Community Development. The advisory board shall: (1) Advise the
992 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development with regard
993 to increasing the availability of technical assistance, access to capital and
994 access to state contracts to [minority-owned] first-generation and
995 emerging businesses; and (2) develop and administer programs to foster
996 financial literacy [, minority employment and entrepreneurship] and
997 strengthen generation wealth, which may include, but need not be
998 limited to, internship and externship programs, apprenticeship
999 programs, entrepreneurship development programs and subsidies to
1000 employers for job creation. For the purposes of this section, "emerging
1001 business" means any business that is engaged in bioscience, advanced
1002 materials, photonics, information technology, clean technology or any
1003 other emerging technology as determined by the Commissioner of
1004 Economic and Community Development.

1005 (b) The advisory board shall consist of the following members:

1006 (1) Four appointed by the Commissioner of Economic and
1007 Community Development, in consultation with members of the
1008 minority business community. Each such appointee shall: (A) Have
1009 skill, knowledge and experience in business and business development,
1010 procurement, and state and federal contracting; (B) have skill,
1011 knowledge and experience in developing minority-owned businesses;
1012 (C) be a member of or hold an office in a community organization
1013 serving minority populations that has economic development,
1014 including, but not limited to, business and entrepreneurial
1015 development, as part of its mission; (D) have business development
1016 education and training expertise; (E) represent a business or
1017 organization that primarily engages in business development; or (F)

1018 own a business;

1019 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

1020 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

1021 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1022 Representatives;

1023 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

1024 (6) Two appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican
1025 Caucus of the General Assembly; and

1026 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) The Commissioner of Economic and Community
1027 Development, or the commissioner's designee.

1028 (c) All appointments to the task force [shall be made not later than
1029 September 1, 2017. Members] shall serve a two-year term and may not
1030 serve more than three such terms consecutively, except that each
1031 member shall hold office until a successor is appointed. Any vacancy
1032 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

1033 (d) [The commissioner shall schedule the first meeting of the advisory
1034 board not later than September 30, 2017.] The advisory board shall elect
1035 a chairperson from among its members. The advisory board shall meet
1036 at such times as the chairperson deems necessary.

1037 (e) No member of the advisory board shall receive compensation for
1038 such member's services.

1039 (f) The advisory board may establish bylaws to govern its procedures.

1040 Sec. 22. Section 32-7s of the general statutes is repealed and the
1041 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1042 (a) As used in this section:

1043 (1) "Certified community development corporation" means an
1044 organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the
1045 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
1046 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to
1047 time, that (A) focuses a substantial majority of the community
1048 development corporation's efforts on serving one or more target areas,
1049 (B) has as its purpose to engage local residents and businesses to work
1050 together to undertake community development programs, projects and
1051 activities that develop and improve urban communities in sustainable
1052 ways that create and expand economic opportunities for low and
1053 moderate-income people, (C) demonstrates to the [Office of Community
1054 Economic Development Assistance] department established under
1055 subsection (b) of this section that the community development
1056 corporation's constituency is meaningfully represented on the board of
1057 directors of such community development corporation, through (i) the
1058 percentage of the board members who are residents of a target area or a
1059 community that such community development corporation serves or
1060 seeks to serve, (ii) the percentage of board members who are low or
1061 moderate-income, (iii) the racial and ethnic composition of the board in
1062 comparison to the racial and ethnic composition of the community such
1063 community development corporation serves or seeks to serve, or (iv) the
1064 use of mechanisms such as committees or membership meetings that
1065 the community development corporation uses to ensure that its
1066 constituency has a meaningful role in the governance and direction of
1067 the community development corporation, and (D) is certified by the
1068 [Office of Community Economic Development Assistance] department
1069 pursuant to this section;

1070 (2) "Department" means the Department of Economic and
1071 Community Development; and

1072 (3) "Target area" means a contiguous geographic area in which the
1073 current unemployment rate exceeds the state unemployment rate by at
1074 least twenty-five per cent or in which the mean household income is at
1075 or below eighty per cent of the state mean household income, as

1076 determined by the most recent decennial census.

1077 (b) (1) [There is established an Office of Community Economic
1078 Development Assistance within the Department of Economic and
1079 Community Development. The office] The department shall, within
1080 available appropriations, (A) provide assistance to organizations
1081 seeking to establish themselves or be certified as a community
1082 development corporation in the state, (B) provide grants to certified
1083 community development corporations for projects to be undertaken in
1084 a target area, (C) serve as the liaison between community development
1085 corporations and investors seeking to invest funds in such community
1086 development corporations and provide assistance in soliciting
1087 investment funds for such community development corporations, and
1088 (D) seek to ensure coordinated, efficient and timely responses to such
1089 organizations, community development corporations and investors.

1090 (2) The [office] department shall identify eligible target areas in the
1091 state and post such target areas on the department's Internet web site.

1092 (c) (1) Any organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3)
1093 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding
1094 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to
1095 time, may apply to the [Office of Community Economic Development
1096 Assistance] department to establish itself as or be certified as a
1097 community development corporation in the state. The [office]
1098 department shall prescribe the form and manner of such application.

1099 (2) (A) Any existing community development corporation that
1100 operates or seeks to operate in the state may apply to the [office]
1101 department to be certified. The [office] department shall certify any
1102 community development corporation that is exempt from taxation
1103 under Section 501(c)(3) of said Internal Revenue Code and meets the
1104 requirements set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of
1105 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section. Each community
1106 development corporation that is established pursuant to this subsection

1107 shall be deemed to be certified.

1108 (B) The [office] department shall maintain a current list of certified
1109 community development corporations and shall post such list on the
1110 department's Internet web site. [of the department.]

1111 [(3) The Office of Community Economic Development Assistance
1112 shall establish a grant program for projects to be undertaken by a
1113 certified community development corporation in a target area,
1114 provided, on and after the date the ten-year plan developed under
1115 section 32-7z is submitted to the General Assembly, the office shall give
1116 priority to projects included in such plan. Such projects shall include,
1117 but not be limited to, infrastructure improvements, housing
1118 rehabilitation, streetscape improvements and facade improvements for
1119 businesses. The office shall establish the application form and process
1120 for such grant program, the criteria for eligible projects and for
1121 awarding grants and any caps or limits on the amount or number of
1122 grants awarded. The office shall post information concerning the grant
1123 program on the department's Internet web site.

1124 (d) (1) For the purposes described in subdivision (2) of this
1125 subsection, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time
1126 to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more
1127 series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate fifty
1128 million dollars.

1129 (2) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
1130 stated in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be used by the
1131 Department of Economic and Community Development for the
1132 purposes of carrying out the duties of the Office of Community
1133 Economic Development Assistance under subsection (b) of this section
1134 and the grant program under subsection (c) of this section.

1135 (3) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power
1136 granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this
1137 section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by

1138 the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes
1139 in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such
1140 bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 and
1141 from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or
1142 times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be
1143 provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State
1144 Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
1145 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
1146 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
1147 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
1148 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
1149 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
1150 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
1151 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
1152 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
1153 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
1154 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
1155 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
1156 such principal and interest as the same become due.]

1157 [(e)] (d) Not later than July 1, [2023] 2026, and annually thereafter, the
1158 [Office of Community Economic Development Assistance shall submit
1159 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
1160 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1161 matters relating to commerce, planning and development and finance,
1162 revenue and bonding. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, a
1163 description of the activities undertaken by the office in the preceding
1164 fiscal year,] department shall post on its Internet web site the number of
1165 community development corporations established and certified in the
1166 preceding fiscal year [, the number and amounts of grants awarded to
1167 certified community development corporations in the preceding fiscal
1168 year] and a description and the locations of the projects undertaken by
1169 certified community development corporations in the preceding fiscal
1170 year.

1171 Sec. 23. Section 32-7x of the general statutes is repealed and the
1172 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1173 (a) As used in this section, "concentrated poverty census tract" means
1174 a United States census tract in which thirty per cent or more of the
1175 households within such census tract have incomes below the federal
1176 poverty level, according to the most recent five-year United States
1177 Census Bureau American Community Survey.

1178 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
1179 compile a list of concentrated poverty census tracts in the state and the
1180 municipalities in which such census tracts are located and shall, not later
1181 than July 31, 2023, submit such list to the General Assembly in
1182 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. The secretary shall post
1183 such list to the Internet web site of the Office of Policy and Management
1184 and shall review and update such list as necessary. Whenever the
1185 secretary updates such list, the secretary shall submit such updated list
1186 to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of section
1187 11-4a.

1188 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
1189 shall establish a grant program to fund eligible projects within
1190 concentrated poverty census tracts. An eligible project shall seek to
1191 reduce concentrated poverty within such tracts and the effects of such
1192 poverty, including, but not limited to, the lower lifetime income of
1193 residents within such tracts, the lower lifetime income expectations of
1194 future generations within such tracts, increased crime and risk of
1195 incarceration for residents within such tracts and educational
1196 deficiencies within such tracts. An eligible project includes:

1197 (A) Construction, renovation or rehabilitation of mixed-income rental
1198 housing and owner-occupied housing, in order to retain individuals and
1199 families of different income levels and to increase the percentage of
1200 owner-occupied housing within such census tract or tracts;

1201 (B) The establishment or improvement of workforce development

1202 programs, including, but not limited to, programs that partner with
1203 organizations to identify unemployed or underemployed individuals
1204 and at-risk youth residing in such census tracts, identify workforce
1205 training opportunities and other resources for such individuals and link
1206 such individuals with the appropriate training and resources that will
1207 increase the skills and earning potential of such individuals; and

1208 (C) Construction, renovation or rehabilitation of public
1209 infrastructure, in order to support and improve the private investment
1210 opportunities, quality of life and public safety within such census tract
1211 or tracts.

1212 (2) Beginning on [~~January 1, 2024~~] July 1, 2028, and not later than
1213 [~~January~~] July 1, 2030, each municipality in which a concentrated
1214 poverty census tract is located may apply to the commissioner, in a form
1215 and manner prescribed by the commissioner, to receive a grant for an
1216 eligible project or any combination of eligible projects. An application
1217 may target one concentrated poverty census tract or more than one such
1218 census tract if such census tracts are geographically contiguous or
1219 within reasonable proximity of each other. An applicant shall not be
1220 prohibited from filing more than one application for different
1221 concentrated poverty census tracts or groups of such census tracts.

1222 (d) (1) [~~Not later than January 1, 2024, the~~] The commissioner shall
1223 establish criteria for the awarding of grants as described in subdivision
1224 (2) of this subsection, requirements for documents and information as
1225 described in subdivision (4) of this subsection and deadlines for
1226 submitting applications and revised and modified applications. [~~under~~
1227 subsection (e) of this section.] The commissioner shall post such criteria,
1228 requirements and deadlines on the Internet web site of the Department
1229 of Economic and Community Development, notify each municipality in
1230 which a concentrated poverty census tract is located of such posting and
1231 promote the availability of the grant program established by this section
1232 in each such census tract.

1233 (2) Criteria for the awarding of grants pursuant to this section shall
1234 include, but need not be limited to:

1235 (A) The likelihood that a proposal will reduce adult or child poverty
1236 within a concentrated poverty census tract;

1237 (B) The likelihood that a proposal will reduce the likelihood that
1238 children currently residing within a concentrated poverty census tract
1239 will live in poverty after reaching adulthood;

1240 (C) The likelihood that a proposal will produce persistent and
1241 meaningful improvements in residents' wealth, financial security,
1242 employability or quality of life beyond the duration of the proposal;

1243 (D) The feasibility of the initiatives in a proposal and the
1244 demonstrated or perceived capacity to execute upon the scope of work
1245 in a proposal, including, but not limited to, adequate staffing levels of
1246 entities involved with the proposal; and

1247 (E) The interconnectivity and mutual reinforcement among all
1248 proposed initiatives in the same concentrated poverty census tract area
1249 or areas, such as providing workforce training programs to parents of
1250 children enrolled in a supported early childhood program.

1251 (3) On and after the date the ten-year plan developed under section
1252 32-7z, as amended by this act, is submitted to the General Assembly,
1253 priority shall be given to projects included in such plan.

1254 [(4) Requirements for documents and information to be submitted by
1255 municipalities to evaluate applications shall include, but need not be
1256 limited to:

1257 (A) A description of how the proposal intends to address each type
1258 of eligible project described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of
1259 subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, and whether there are
1260 existing projects or programs to address such eligible projects;

1261 (B) A description of each initiative within the proposal, which may
1262 include multiple simultaneous initiatives, and how each initiative will
1263 meet one of the criteria established pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
1264 subsection;

1265 (C) A description of sufficient efforts, as determined by the
1266 commissioner, to engage residents of the concentrated poverty census
1267 tract in formulating a proposal;

1268 (D) For an initiative that is an eligible project described in
1269 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, a
1270 description of the municipality's consultations with the regional
1271 workforce development board that serves the municipality regarding
1272 the development of such project and efforts to coordinate such project
1273 with the board's activities;

1274 (E) A description of each organization that will participate in an
1275 eligible project described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
1276 subsection (c) of this section, and information on each organization's
1277 commitment to provide continuous, sustained engagement with
1278 residents of such tract throughout the project;

1279 (F) A description of the entity or organization responsible for
1280 coordinating the implementation of each component of the application
1281 and overseeing the various projects and programs outlined in such
1282 application;

1283 (G) A description of plans for ongoing engagement with residents of
1284 such census tracts and solicitation of feedback on the progress of a
1285 proposal during its implementation; and

1286 (H) A description of plans to provide residents of such census tract
1287 with opportunities to become involved in implementation of a proposal.

1288 (e) (1) The department shall review and evaluate each application
1289 submitted and shall work with the applicant municipality to revise the

1290 application if the department believes such revisions will improve or
1291 strengthen the application. The department shall assist an applicant in
1292 identifying and applying for funding under other programs in order to
1293 maximize the amount of funding available for an applicant, including
1294 seeking funding under section 4-66c. For a proposal for an eligible
1295 project described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection
1296 (c) of this section, the commissioner shall evaluate such project in
1297 consultation with the Commissioner of Housing and the Commissioner
1298 of Housing shall assist the applicant with obtaining funding for such
1299 project through programs operated by the Department of Housing.

1300 (2) The commissioner shall submit to the Governor all applications
1301 that are deemed to satisfy the requirements of subsection (d) of this
1302 section. The Governor shall review such applications and may approve
1303 or disapprove an application or return an application to the
1304 commissioner for modifications. If an application is returned to the
1305 commissioner, the commissioner shall work with the applicant to
1306 modify the application and shall resubmit such application with
1307 modifications to the Governor. If the Governor approves an application,
1308 the Governor shall make a grant award from bond proceeds under
1309 section 32-7y, provided the Governor may use funds from other bond
1310 proceeds authorized for the general purposes described in
1311 subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (c)
1312 of this section for such grants. Grants awarded under this section shall
1313 be for a period of three years, and in an amount sufficient to carry out
1314 the objectives of the application, but not less than five hundred
1315 thousand dollars. Each application that the Governor approves shall be
1316 considered at a State Bond Commission meeting not later than two
1317 months after the date the application was approved by the Governor.]

1318 (4) Requirements for documents and information to be submitted by
1319 municipalities to evaluate applications shall be determined by the
1320 commissioner.

1321 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) At the conclusion of the initial grant period, the commissioner

1322 shall evaluate the municipality's progress toward reducing the number
1323 of households within the applicable concentrated poverty census tract
1324 who have incomes below the federal poverty level to less than thirty per
1325 cent of the households of such census tract. Such evaluation shall
1326 consider, among other factors, any change in the percentage of
1327 households within such census tract who have incomes below the
1328 federal poverty level, and whether the actions taken pursuant to such
1329 grant during the initial grant period: (1) May reasonably result in a
1330 future reduction in the percentage of households within such census
1331 tract who have incomes below the federal poverty level, (2) have
1332 resulted in a reduction in child poverty within such census tract, (3) may
1333 reasonably result in a future reduction in child poverty within such
1334 census tract, or (4) may reasonably decrease the likelihood that children
1335 who are currently living within such census tract will have incomes
1336 below the federal poverty level after they reach adulthood. Upon a
1337 determination by the commissioner that reasonable progress has been
1338 made, the municipality shall be eligible for subsequent grants under this
1339 section, provided, at the conclusion of each subsequent grant period of
1340 three years, each applicant municipality shall be subject to an evaluation
1341 and determination under this subsection prior to being eligible to apply
1342 for a subsequent grant. An application for a subsequent grant and the
1343 awarding of a subsequent grant shall be in accordance with the
1344 provisions of subsections (c) to [(e)] (d), inclusive, of this section.

1345 [(g)] (f) Not later than [August 1, 2024] July 1, 2029, and annually
1346 thereafter until and including [August 1, 2029, the commissioner shall
1347 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to
1348 the General Assembly, that includes] July 1, 2031, the department shall
1349 post on its Internet web site the municipalities that submitted
1350 applications and that were awarded grants under this section in the
1351 prior fiscal year [,] and a description of each purpose and eligible project
1352 a municipality awarded a grant under this section is seeking to
1353 accomplish. [or undertaking, a progress report, if applicable, for each
1354 such purpose or eligible project and any other information the

1355 commissioner deems relevant.]

1356 Sec. 24. Subsection (b) of section 32-7y of the general statutes is
1357 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1358 *passage*):

1359 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
1360 stated in subdivision (a) of this subsection, shall be used by the
1361 Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose
1362 of the [high poverty-low opportunity census tract] concentrated poverty
1363 census tract grant program established pursuant to section 32-7x, as
1364 amended by this act.

1365 Sec. 25. Section 32-7z of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
1366 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1367 *passage*):

1368 (a) It is hereby declared that there exists concentrated poverty in the
1369 state that exacts a critical toll on poor and nonpoor residents of
1370 communities that house areas of concentrated poverty, which create
1371 lifelong and persistent disadvantages across generations by lowering
1372 the quality of educational and employment opportunities, limiting
1373 health care access and diminishing health outcomes, increasing
1374 exposure to crime, reducing available choices for affordable and
1375 properly maintained housing and imposing obstacles to wealth-
1376 building and economic mobility. It is further declared that the
1377 development and implementation of the ten-year plan under this
1378 section to eradicate concentrated poverty in the state are necessary and
1379 for the public benefit, as a matter of legislative determination.

1380 [(b) There is established an Office of Neighborhood Investment and
1381 Community Engagement within the Department of Economic and
1382 Community Development. Said office shall carry out the provisions of
1383 this section, overseeing the implementation of the ten-year plan
1384 developed pursuant to this subsection, monitoring the state's progress
1385 in reducing concentrated poverty in the state and serving as the

1386 facilitator to coordinate communication between the various parties and
1387 disseminate information in a timely and efficient manner.]

1388 [(c)] (b) (1) There is established a pilot program to implement the
1389 provisions of the ten-year plan developed pursuant to this section for
1390 participating concentrated poverty census tracts. Any concentrated
1391 poverty census tract or group of tracts (A) that is located in any of the
1392 four municipalities with the greatest number of concentrated poverty
1393 census tracts, and (B) for which community members have established
1394 a community development corporation pursuant to the provisions of
1395 section 32-7s, as amended by this act, to assist the municipality in which
1396 such census tract or group of tracts is located in carrying out the
1397 municipality's responsibilities under this section and the ten-year plan
1398 developed for such census tract or group of tracts, shall be eligible to
1399 apply to participate in the program. Notwithstanding the provisions of
1400 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, any municipality in which a
1401 concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts is located and for
1402 which a community development corporation has been established as
1403 described under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, or any such
1404 community development corporation, may apply to participate in the
1405 program. The Commissioner of Economic and Community
1406 Development shall issue a request for proposals for participation in the
1407 pilot program and select the applicant with the highest score. As used
1408 in this section, "concentrated poverty census tract" means a census tract
1409 identified as a [high poverty-low opportunity] concentrated poverty
1410 census tract, as of January 1, 2024, by the Office of Policy and
1411 Management pursuant to section 32-7x, as amended by this act, of the
1412 2024 supplement to the general statutes.

1413 (2) (A) (i) The [Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community
1414 Engagement] Commissioner of Economic and Community
1415 Development shall develop a plan for the pilot participating
1416 concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts, as applicable, to
1417 eradicate, over ten years, the levels of concentrated poverty in the
1418 service area of the community development corporation, evidenced by

1419 a reduction, to twenty per cent or lower, in the percentage of households
1420 who reside in such concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts
1421 and have incomes below the federal poverty level, as well as sustained
1422 improvements in community infrastructure and other underlying
1423 conditions that serve to prolong concentrated poverty and economic
1424 inertia in such census tract or group of tracts.

1425 (ii) In developing such plan, [said office shall] the Commissioner of
1426 Economic and Community Development may consult with [the Office
1427 of Community Economic Development Assistance established under
1428 section 32-7s, the Department of Economic and Community
1429 Development,] the Office of Workforce Strategy established under
1430 section 4-124w, the regional workforce development board, established
1431 under section 31-3k, serving the participating concentrated poverty
1432 census tract or group of tracts, the Office of Early Childhood, the
1433 Department of Education, the Department of Housing, the Office of
1434 Policy and Management, the applicable community development
1435 corporations serving the participating concentrated poverty census tract
1436 or group of tracts and the applicable municipal chief elected officials and
1437 any other public or private entity the Commissioner of Economic and
1438 Community Development deems relevant or necessary to achieving the
1439 purposes of this subsection.

1440 (B) The ten-year plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (i)
1441 measurable steps to be taken for its implementation, the target date by
1442 which each such step is to be completed and the state or municipal
1443 official or state or municipal agency, department or division responsible
1444 for each such step, (ii) minimum state-wide averages for educational
1445 metrics, including, but not limited to, kindergarten-readiness, grade
1446 level reading and mathematics and college-readiness or career-
1447 readiness, to be used as benchmarks for improvements in such
1448 concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts, as applicable, and
1449 (iii) the list of possible projects determined pursuant to subdivision (3)
1450 of this subsection.

1451 [(C) On or before June 1, 2025, and again not later than September 1,
1452 2025, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
1453 shall inform the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
1454 having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding,
1455 in writing, of the progress made to date in the development of the ten-
1456 year plan. Not later than January 1, 2026, said commissioner shall
1457 submit such plan to the General Assembly, in accordance with the
1458 provisions of section 11-4a, and the Office of Neighborhood Investment
1459 and Community Engagement shall immediately commence overseeing
1460 the implementation of such plan.]

1461 (3) The [Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community
1462 Engagement] Commissioner of Economic and Community
1463 Development shall, jointly with the chief elected official of each
1464 applicable municipality and the community development corporation
1465 established to assist such municipality, develop a list of possible projects
1466 that will be included in the ten-year plan for the participating
1467 concentrated poverty census tract or group of tracts, as applicable,
1468 located in such municipality. [Said office,] The Department of Economic
1469 and Community Development and such official and corporation shall
1470 (A) determine the types of projects they deem to be the most appropriate
1471 and effective for such census tract or group of tracts to eradicate
1472 concentrated poverty within such census tract or group of tracts,
1473 including, but not limited to, capital projects, workforce development
1474 programs, housing development, community and neighborhood
1475 improvements and education initiatives to assist and support residents
1476 in meeting and surpassing the educational metrics described in
1477 subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) take
1478 into account the criteria for projects eligible for grants under sections
1479 [32-7s,] 32-7x, as amended by this act, and 32-285a.

1480 (4) Not later than February 1, [2027] 2029, and annually thereafter, the
1481 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit
1482 a report to the General Assembly, the Office of Workforce Strategy, the
1483 Office of Early Childhood and the Office of Policy and Management, in

1484 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, that summarizes the
1485 progress being made by the [Office of Neighborhood Investment and
1486 Community Engagement] Department of Economic and Community
1487 Development in implementing the ten-year plan, the status of any
1488 projects pending or undertaken for the participating concentrated
1489 poverty census tract or group of tracts and any other information the
1490 commissioner [or the Office of Neighborhood Investment and
1491 Community Engagement] deems relevant or necessary.

1492 [(5) (A) Commencing with the calendar year 2027, not later than
1493 March first of said year and annually thereafter for the next two years,
1494 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
1495 cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding shall
1496 hold an informational forum for the Commissioner of Economic and
1497 Community Development to present the contents of the submitted
1498 report and for other state officials, municipal officials, representatives of
1499 community development corporations serving participating
1500 concentrated poverty census tracts or groups of tracts and other
1501 interested parties to provide oral and written comments on the
1502 submitted report and the pilot program.

1503 (B) Commencing with the calendar year 2030, said committee shall
1504 hold such informational forum every two years.]

1505 (d) [On and after the date the ten-year plan is submitted to the
1506 General Assembly pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of
1507 subsection (c) of this section, each] Each state agency shall give priority
1508 to projects included in [such] the ten-year plan with respect to any
1509 grants or funding programs such agency awards or administers and for
1510 which such projects may be eligible.

1511 (e) Not later than [January 1, 2029] February 1, 2031, the
1512 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit
1513 a recommendation to the joint standing committee of the General
1514 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and

1515 bonding of (1) whether the pilot program should be expanded to all
1516 concentrated poverty census tracts or groups of tracts in the state for
1517 which a community development corporation has been established as
1518 described under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection [(c)]
1519 (b) of this section, and (2) any additional or alternative criteria to be
1520 considered for expansion of the pilot program to other economically
1521 disadvantaged census tracts that do not fall within the definition of a
1522 concentrated poverty census tract. If the commissioner recommends
1523 expansion under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner
1524 [and the Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community
1525 Engagement shall] may immediately undertake such expansion.

1526 [(f) On and after July 1, 2027, if any state or municipal official
1527 responsible for carrying out a requirement or responsibility under the
1528 provisions of this section or a ten-year plan fails to do so in a timely
1529 manner, any community development corporation established as
1530 described under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of
1531 this section that was (1) selected pursuant to the request for proposals
1532 under subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, (2) can
1533 demonstrate good faith efforts to effectuate the ten-year plan, and (3) is
1534 aggrieved by such failure may bring an action against such official in
1535 the superior court for the judicial district in which such census tract or
1536 group of tracts is located for a writ of mandamus to compel such official
1537 to carry out such requirement or responsibility.]

1538 Sec. 26. Section 32-7g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
1539 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1540 *passage*):

1541 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and
1542 Community Development the Connecticut Small Business [Express]
1543 Boost program. Said program shall provide small businesses with
1544 various forms of financial assistance. A small business eligible for
1545 assistance through said program shall (1) employ not more than one
1546 hundred employees, (2) have operations in Connecticut, and (3) be in

1547 good standing with the payment of all state and local taxes and with all
1548 state agencies. It shall be the goal of the Department of Economic and
1549 Community Development that, on or before July 1, 2026, the
1550 Connecticut Small Business [Express] Boost program be self-funded and
1551 that the default rate of small businesses that receive assistance under
1552 said program be not more than twenty per cent.

1553 (b) The Connecticut Small Business [Express] Boost program shall
1554 consist of various components, including (1) a revolving loan fund, as
1555 described in subsection (c) of this section, to support small business
1556 growth, (2) at least one [minority business revolving loan] Connecticut
1557 opportunity fund, as described in subsection (d) of this section, [to
1558 support the growth of minority-owned businesses,] (3) a component
1559 established in consultation with representatives from Connecticut-
1560 based banks and a banking industry association, as described in
1561 subsection (e) of this section, and (4) a component established in
1562 consultation with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, as described
1563 in subsection (f) of this section. The commissioner may give preference
1564 to program applications from disabled veteran-owned businesses.
1565 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 32-5a regarding relocation
1566 limits, the department may require, as a condition of receiving financial
1567 assistance pursuant to this section, that a small business receiving such
1568 assistance shall not relocate, as defined in section 32-5a, for five years
1569 after receiving such assistance or during the term of the loan, whichever
1570 is longer. All other conditions and penalties imposed pursuant to
1571 section 32-5a shall continue to apply to such small business. As used in
1572 this subsection, (A) "disabled veteran" means a veteran, as defined in
1573 section 27-103, who has a disability rating of at least thirty per cent, as
1574 determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and
1575 (B) "disabled veteran-owned business" means a small business of which
1576 greater than fifty per cent is owned by one or more disabled veterans.

1577 (c) There is established as part of the Connecticut Small Business
1578 [Express] Boost program a revolving loan fund to provide loans, loan
1579 guarantees, loan portfolio guarantees, portfolio insurance and grants.

1580 (d) (1) There is established as part of the Connecticut Small Business
1581 [Express] Boost program at least one [revolving loan] Connecticut
1582 opportunity fund to provide loans to eligible small businesses that are
1583 [owned by one or more members of a minority] located in an eligible
1584 municipality or earn not more than one million dollars in annual
1585 revenue. As used in this subsection, (A) ["minority business
1586 development entity"] "business development entity" means a nonprofit
1587 [organization (i) having a lending portfolio on or before June 9, 2016,
1588 from which at least seventy-five per cent of lending is provided to
1589 minority-owned businesses state-wide; and (ii) that provided technical
1590 assistance on or before June 9, 2016, provided at least seventy-five per
1591 cent of such assistance was provided to minority-owned businesses
1592 state-wide] community development financial institution having
1593 operations in the state; and (B) ["minority" means (i) Black Americans,
1594 including all persons having origins in any of the Black African racial
1595 groups not of Hispanic origin; (ii) Hispanic Americans, including all
1596 persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American,
1597 or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; (iii) all persons
1598 having origins in the Iberian Peninsula, including Portugal, regardless
1599 of race; (iv) women; (v) Asian Pacific Americans and Pacific islanders;
1600 or (vi) American Indians and persons having origins in any of the
1601 original peoples of North America and maintaining identifiable tribal
1602 affiliations through membership and participation or community
1603 identification] "eligible municipality" means a municipality designated
1604 as a public investment community pursuant to section 7-545, an alliance
1605 district pursuant to section 10-262u or a distressed municipality
1606 pursuant to section 32-9p.

1607 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 32-7h, as amended by
1608 this act, the commissioner shall allocate from the available funding
1609 under the Connecticut Small Business [Express] Boost program a total
1610 of five million dollars for grants-in-aid to not more than two [minority]
1611 business development entities in each of the fiscal years ending June 30,
1612 2016, to June 30, 2020, inclusive, for the purpose of establishing and

1613 administering [minority business revolving loan] Connecticut
1614 opportunity funds. Moneys from such funds shall be used to (A)
1615 provide loans to eligible small businesses, and (B) fund the
1616 administrative costs associated with the provision of such loans by a
1617 [minority] business development entity, provided a [minority] business
1618 development entity may not use more than ten per cent of the amount
1619 received as a grant under this section to fund such costs. Such loans shall
1620 be used for acquisition or purchase of machinery and equipment,
1621 construction or leasehold improvements, relocation expenses, working
1622 capital, which may be used for payment of rent, or other business-
1623 related expenses, as authorized by the [minority] business development
1624 entity.

1625 (3) Loans from a [minority business revolving loan] Connecticut
1626 opportunity fund may be in amounts from ten thousand dollars to a
1627 maximum of five hundred thousand dollars, shall carry a maximum
1628 repayment rate of four per cent and shall be for a term of not more than
1629 ten years. The [minority] business development entity shall review and
1630 approve loan terms, conditions and collateral requirements in a manner
1631 that prioritizes job growth and retention.

1632 (4) Any eligible small business [owned by one or more members of a
1633 minority] may apply for assistance from a [minority business revolving
1634 loan] Connecticut opportunity fund, provided the [minority] business
1635 development entity shall give priority to applicants that, as part of their
1636 business plan, are creating new jobs that will be maintained for not less
1637 than twelve consecutive months.

1638 (5) Loans from a [minority business revolving] Connecticut
1639 opportunity fund shall be provided in such a manner that, on or before
1640 five years after the date such loan fund is established, the annual funds
1641 or revenues derived from investment income, loan repayments or any
1642 other sources received by the [minority] business development entity in
1643 connection with such loan fund is sufficient to fund the administrative
1644 costs associated with such loan fund.

1645 (6) A [minority] business development entity receiving a grant
1646 pursuant to this subsection shall annually submit to the commissioner a
1647 financial audit of grant expenditures until all grant moneys have been
1648 expended by such entity. Any such audit shall be prepared by an
1649 independent auditor and if the commissioner finds that any such grant
1650 is used for purposes that are not in conformity with uses set forth in
1651 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, the commissioner may
1652 require repayment of such grant.

1653 (e) The commissioner, in consultation with representatives from
1654 Connecticut-based banks and a banking industry association, may
1655 establish as part of the Connecticut Small Business [Express] Boost
1656 program a component operated in collaboration with Connecticut-
1657 based banks, which may include, but need not be limited to, loan
1658 guarantees, short-term loans used as a bridge to private sector financing
1659 and the transfer of loans issued under subsection (c) of this section. Any
1660 loans issued under such component shall be used for acquisition or
1661 purchase of machinery and equipment, construction or leasehold
1662 improvements, relocation expenses, working capital, which may be
1663 used for payment of rent, or other business-related expenses, as
1664 authorized by the commissioner. The provisions of subsections (c) and
1665 (d) of this section shall not be construed to apply to such component.
1666 Such component shall be administered by Connecticut Innovations,
1667 Incorporated, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and
1668 Community Development. For purposes of this section, "Connecticut-
1669 based banks" means banks and out-of-state banks, each as defined in
1670 section 36a-2, having deposit-taking branches in the state.

1671 (f) The commissioner, in consultation with Connecticut Innovations,
1672 Incorporated, may establish as part of the Connecticut Small Business
1673 [Express] Boost program a component operated in collaboration with
1674 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, which may include, but need
1675 not be limited to, financial assistance consistent with the provisions and
1676 purposes of sections 32-23e, 32-23ii and 32-265. Such component may be
1677 administered by Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, in

1678 collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community
1679 Development.

1680 (g) Not later than February 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
1681 commissioner shall provide a report, in accordance with the provisions
1682 of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
1683 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and
1684 bonding, appropriations, commerce and labor. Such report shall include
1685 available data on (1) the number of small businesses that received
1686 assistance under the Connecticut Small Business [Express] Boost
1687 program and the general categories of such businesses, (2) the amounts
1688 and types of assistance provided, (3) the total number of jobs on the date
1689 of application and the number proposed to be created or retained, (4)
1690 the most recent employment figures of the small businesses receiving
1691 assistance, (5) the default rate of small businesses that received
1692 assistance under said program, and (6) the progress of the lenders
1693 participating in said program in becoming self-sustainable. The contents
1694 of such report shall also be included in the department's annual report.

1695 (h) The commissioner may contract with nongovernmental entities,
1696 including, but not limited to, nonprofit organizations, economic and
1697 community development organizations, lending institutions, and
1698 technical assistance providers to carry out the provisions of this section.

1699 Sec. 27. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 4-68cc of the 2026
1700 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1701 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1702 (4) The Neighborhood Security Fellowship Program may engage in
1703 (A) the coordination and placement of Fellows in worksite assignments,
1704 including (i) local, state and federal government agencies and
1705 departments, (ii) state-funded public construction projects within the
1706 municipality selected, (iii) private businesses, particularly those
1707 receiving assistance from the Connecticut Small Business [Express]
1708 Boost program established pursuant to section 32-7g, as amended by

1709 this act, or the Subsidized Training and Employment program
1710 established pursuant to section 31-3pp, and (iv) nonprofit community-
1711 based organizations receiving a grant-in-aid from the state, and (B) the
1712 coordination of training placements, including in adult education
1713 courses, vocational training programs, higher education courses and
1714 apprenticeship programs.

1715 Sec. 28. Section 32-7h of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
1716 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1717 *passage*):

1718 (a) There is established an account to be known as the ["small
1719 business express assistance account"] "Connecticut small business boost
1720 assistance account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The
1721 account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the
1722 account. Repayment of principal and interest on loans shall be credited
1723 to such fund and shall become part of the assets of the fund. Moneys in
1724 the account shall be expended by the Department of Economic and
1725 Community Development for (1) the purposes of the Connecticut Small
1726 Business [Express] Boost program established pursuant to section 32-7g,
1727 as amended by this act, and (2) the purposes enumerated in sections 32-
1728 39f, as amended by this act, and 32-39g. Except as provided in
1729 subsection (d) of section 32-7g, as amended by this act, all moneys
1730 received for the purposes of the Connecticut Small Business [Express]
1731 Boost program and payments of principal and interest on any loans
1732 given under said program shall be credited to the account.

1733 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of section 32-7g, as amended
1734 by this act, the Commissioner of Economic and Community
1735 Development may provide for the payment of any administrative
1736 expenses or other costs incurred by the department or its lender partners
1737 in carrying out the purposes of (1) the Connecticut Small Business
1738 [Express] Boost program, or (2) the purposes enumerated in, or any
1739 programs established pursuant to, sections 32-39f, as amended by this
1740 act, and 32-39g, not to exceed five per cent of funding provided for such

1741 programs or for such enumerated purposes, from the account
1742 established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided one per
1743 cent shall be dedicated to develop capacity for capital construction
1744 projects for minority business enterprises.

1745 Sec. 29. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 32-235 of the 2026
1746 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1747 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1748 (3) To deposit twenty million dollars in the [small business express
1749 assistance account] Connecticut small business boost assistance account
1750 established pursuant to section 32-7h, as amended by this act;

1751 Sec. 30. Subsection (b) of section 32-39f of the 2026 supplement to the
1752 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1753 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1754 (b) The department may use any funds available in the CTNext Fund
1755 established under section 32-39i and the [small business express
1756 assistance account] Connecticut small business boost assistance account
1757 established under section 32-7h, as amended by this act, for the
1758 following purposes:

1759 (1) To foster and oversee the growth and continuous improvement of
1760 a state-wide entrepreneurial ecosystem and infrastructure that is
1761 supportive of Connecticut innovators and entrepreneurs and to initiate
1762 changes to practices that the commissioner deems to be outdated to
1763 improve such ecosystem and infrastructure;

1764 (2) To maintain an active and conspicuous presence at all nodes of
1765 such ecosystem and infrastructure and continuously increase
1766 connections between such nodes;

1767 (3) To regularly reassess the health of such ecosystem and
1768 infrastructure, identify their changing needs, adopt initiatives or adapt
1769 existing initiatives to meet such needs and regularly inform the General

1770 Assembly of such needs by proposing recommended legislation
1771 deemed necessary or desirable by the commissioner;

1772 (4) To support the growth of start-up and growth stage businesses;

1773 (5) To promote entrepreneur community-building;

1774 (6) To connect start-up and growth stage business entrepreneurs with
1775 other start-up and growth stage business entrepreneurs and with state,
1776 federal and private resources;

1777 (7) To facilitate the establishment of innovation places and incubator
1778 facilities and the development, growth and evolution of innovation
1779 places and incubator facilities individually and in mutually supportive
1780 connections to other innovation places and incubator facilities;

1781 (8) To facilitate mentorship for start-up and growth stage business
1782 entrepreneurs;

1783 (9) To provide technical training and resources to start-up and
1784 growth stage businesses and entrepreneurs;

1785 (10) To facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship at institutions of
1786 higher education; and

1787 (11) To identify areas in which current practices and policies at such
1788 institutions of higher education are not realizing their full potential.

1789 Sec. 31. Section 32-4e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1790 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1791 [As used in section 32-4h, "economic cluster"] "Economic cluster"
1792 means a grouping of industries linked together through customer,
1793 supplier or other relationships.

1794 Sec. 32. Sections 32-4h, 32-324 and 32-324b to 32-324h, inclusive, of
1795 the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

1796 Sec. 33. Section 32-324a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
 1797 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

1798 Sec. 34. Section 16 of public act 25-95 is repealed. (*Effective from*
 1799 *passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-1u
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	32-286(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	32-726
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	32-1m(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	32-761
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	32-764(a)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	32-4r(e)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	32-7aa(f)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	38a-88a(c)(3)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	PA 25-174, Sec. 137
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	32-7n
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	32-7o(n)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-397c
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200g(g)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	4-66aa
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	32-9n
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	32-352
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	32-355
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	32-357
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	32-39m(a)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	32-7q
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	32-7s
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	32-7x
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	32-7y(b)
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	32-7z
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	32-7g
Sec. 27	<i>from passage</i>	4-68cc(b)(4)
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	32-7h
Sec. 29	<i>from passage</i>	32-235(b)(3)
Sec. 30	<i>from passage</i>	32-39f(b)

Sec. 31	<i>from passage</i>	32-4e
Sec. 32	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section
Sec. 33	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section
Sec. 34	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Department of Economic and Community Development's recommendations for revisions to the commerce statutes, including (1) removing references to certain Department of Economic and Community Development offices, (2) repealing or modifying certain reporting requirements, (3) repealing defunct programs, (4) addressing changes to federal funding, (5) revising the Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board membership and establishing a board absentee policy, (6) establishing a council absentee policy for the Tourism Council, (7) revising the name, charge and membership of the Minority Business Initiative Advisory Board and permitting the board to establish bylaws, (8) implementing certain revisions to the concentrated poverty statutes, and (9) rename the Small Business Express program and the small business express assistance account.

[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.]