



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 332

February Session, 2002

AN ACT CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-501 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

3 (a) The commissioner shall have jurisdiction over the coordination
4 of trade development activities in the state. The commissioner shall
5 initiate, conduct and coordinate the implementation of Department of
6 Economic and Community Development programs to promote and
7 assist Connecticut businesses with international trade. The
8 commissioner shall be responsible for planning, developing and
9 administering such programs and may adopt regulations in
10 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the purposes
11 of sections 32-500 to 32-512, inclusive.

12 (b) The commissioner may give priority in such programs to
13 promoting and assisting Connecticut businesses with regard to trade
14 with African countries with whom the United States has diplomatic
15 relations. Not later than January 1, 1998, the commissioner may submit
16 a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
17 having cognizance of matters relating to the Department of Economic
18 and Community Development, concerning his progress in
19 implementing the provisions of this subsection.

20 (c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
21 shall annually hold a conference for the purpose of recognizing the
22 contributions of international trade to economic growth and
23 development in the state. Special recognition may be given to foreign-
24 owned businesses from a particular country or to a group of
25 businesses from different countries but in the same economic cluster.
26 The commissioner shall invite to each conference representatives of
27 foreign-owned businesses operating in the state, business leaders from
28 each economic cluster, the members of the joint standing committee of
29 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
30 commerce, other government officials and higher education faculty
31 who work in, support or study international trade.

32 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Lieutenant Governor and
33 the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee
34 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
35 commerce shall serve as liaison to foreign-owned businesses located in
36 the state or that may locate in the state.

37 Sec. 3. Section 32-9tt of the general statutes is repealed and the
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

39 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Eligible applicant" means (A) a group
40 of businesses or the organization representing such group, (B) an
41 individual business, or (C) a group of municipalities working together
42 to develop or increase foreign markets for local products or services;
43 and (2) "cost sharing or matching grant moneys" means all
44 contributions, including cash and third party in-kind donations that
45 are approved by the commissioner.

46 ~~[(a)]~~ (b) The Commissioner of Economic and Community
47 Development may provide cost sharing or matching grant moneys,
48 with funds available through bond authorization pursuant to section
49 32-235, as amended, to assist and promote economic clusters
50 representing businesses that are new to exporting or organizations
51 representing such businesses or to assist municipalities working

52 together to develop or increase foreign markets for local products or
 53 services. The provisions of section 32-5a shall not apply to grants
 54 under this section. [For purposes of this section, "cost sharing or
 55 matching grant moneys" means all contributions, including cash and
 56 third party in-kind donations that are approved by the commissioner.]

57 [(b)] (c) Such cost sharing or matching grant moneys shall be
 58 available to [a group of businesses or the organization representing
 59 such group] eligible applicants, for the following purposes: (1)
 60 Recruiting and organizing of member businesses for the purpose of
 61 collaborating on ways in which the member business may export their
 62 products and services to other countries; (2) researching and
 63 identifying the foreign markets where there is a demand for their
 64 products and services; (3) designating agents for the purpose of
 65 accessing the services of federal, state, local, private and nonprivate
 66 export service providers; and (4) identifying and contracting with
 67 foreign representatives in the identified markets to promote and sell
 68 the products and services of the member businesses. No grant shall
 69 exceed five thousand dollars in any fiscal year.

70 [(c) A group receiving grants]

71 (d) Grant recipients shall provide the commissioner with
 72 information concerning goals, methodology, budget and program
 73 results. Such information shall be provided in a form and manner
 74 prescribed by the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

FIN *Joint Favorable*