



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 1258

LCO No. 4267

04267 _____ HED

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH APPLICATIONS WITH INDUSTRY.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is established a
2 grant program to enable institutions of higher education and industry
3 to advance talent and research capabilities in today's high-technology
4 environment. Funds may be used for technology purchase, lease,
5 installation, operating personnel, maintenance and necessary support
6 personnel to operate equipment and facilities funded under the
7 program. Such equipment and facilities may include specialized core
8 facilities or the acquisition of a major piece of equipment that:

9 (1) Is key to the research and development agenda of the
10 organization, enabling both high priority research and research
11 collaboration;

12 (2) Can be shared with other higher educational institutions;

13 (3) Can promote collaboration with industry and advance applied
14 research projects, such as in characterizing materials, conducting

15 preclinical research on new drugs or product testing; or

16 (4) Represents a major, nonincremental improvement in capacities
17 within this state.

18 (b) There is established a structured industry-university matching
19 research grant program with sustained annual funding, active
20 outreach to companies and two rounds of funding annually. The
21 program shall:

22 (1) Provide one-to-one matching grants not to exceed one hundred
23 thousand dollars, with in-kind match allowed for small and mid-sized
24 companies; and

25 (2) Involve a competitive process with outside reviewers. The key
26 criteria should be demonstration of commercial relevance and a clear
27 path to the marketplace for any innovations developed in the course of
28 the research project.

29 (c) The initial priority of grants under this section shall be assessed
30 in the following order:

31 (1) Grants that focus on strategies that support research and
32 development in institutions of higher education in the area of stem cell
33 research;

34 (2) Grants that focus on strategies that support additional research
35 and development in institutions of higher education in the area of
36 nanotechnology, using the findings of the study conducted in
37 accordance with section 2 of this act.

38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Workforce
39 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations and in
40 consultation with the nanotechnology advisory council established
41 under subsection (b) of this section, prepare recommendations to
42 advance this state's position in nanotechnology development,
43 including recommended state investments to increase university

44 research, develop centers of excellence and shared use facilities,
45 promote partnerships and collaborations involving technology-based
46 business and industry with institutions of higher education, and
47 advance education and training programs in nanotechnology fields.
48 No later than January 1, 2006, the Office of Workforce Development
49 shall report its findings to the joint standing committee of the General
50 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
51 and employment advancement.

52 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall establish an
53 Advisory Council on Nanotechnology to guide the work set out under
54 subsection (a) of this section. The advisory council shall be chaired by
55 the executive director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and
56 shall include representatives from state agencies, including the
57 Department of Economic and Community Development, the
58 Connecticut Development Authority and Connecticut Innovations,
59 Incorporated, public and private institutions of higher education and
60 representatives from the technology industry selected by the executive
61 director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To promote more research applications with industry by Connecticut colleges and universities.

[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.]