



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2005

LCO No. 6754

SB0125806754SD0

Offered by:

SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.

SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.

REP. BERGER, 73rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1258

File No. 666

Cal. No. 476

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 4-124ff of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5 *1, 2005*):

6 (b) There is established a Council of Advisors on Strategies for the
7 Knowledge Economy to promote the formation of university-industry
8 partnerships, identify benchmarks for technology-based workforce
9 innovation and competitiveness and advise the award process (1) for
10 innovation challenge grants to public postsecondary schools and their
11 business partners, and (2) grants under section 2 of this act. The
12 council shall be chaired by the director of the Office of Workforce
13 Competitiveness and shall include the Secretary of the Office of Policy

14 and Management, the Commissioners of Economic and Community
15 Development and Higher Education, [and] the Labor Commissioner,
16 the executive directors of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated and
17 the Connecticut Development Authority and four representatives from
18 the technology industry, one of whom shall be appointed by the
19 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed
20 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
21 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and one of whom shall
22 be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

23 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Office of Workforce
24 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations, establish a
25 grant program to provide a flexible source of funding the creation and
26 generation of talent in institutions of higher education and, with
27 appropriate connections to vocational-technical schools and other
28 secondary schools, for student outreach and development. Grants
29 pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded to institutions of higher
30 education and may be used to:

31 (1) Upgrade instructional laboratories to meet specific industry-
32 standard laboratory and instrumentation skill requirements;

33 (2) Develop new curriculum and certificate and degree programs at
34 the level of associate, bachelor, master's and doctorate, tied to industry
35 identified needs;

36 (3) Develop seamlessly articulated career development programs in
37 workforce shortage areas forecasted pursuant to subdivision (9) of
38 subsection (b) of section 4-124w of the general statutes in collaboration
39 with vocational-technical schools and other secondary schools and
40 institutions of higher education; and

41 (4) Support undergraduate and graduate student research projects
42 and experimental learning activities.

43 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall, within available
44 appropriations, establish a grant program to provide funding for the

45 advancement of research capabilities and research opportunities.
46 Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded to institutions of
47 higher education and may be used to:

48 (1) Recruit eminent faculty in basic and applied research;

49 (2) Leverage federal funding for research centers; and

50 (3) Provide pilot funding for faculty to develop initial research data
51 for the development of larger grant funding proposals and to nonstate
52 granting entities, such as federal agencies.

53 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall, within available
54 appropriations, establish a grant program to provide funding for the
55 promotion of collaborative research applications between industry and
56 institutions of higher education. Grants pursuant to this subsection
57 shall be awarded to institutions of higher education and business
58 entities may be used:

59 (1) To improve technology infrastructure by advancing the
60 development of shared use between institutions of higher education
61 and business entities of laboratories and equipment, including, but not
62 limited to, technology purchase, lease and installation, operating and
63 necessary support personnel and maintenance; and

64 (2) As matching grants for joint projects between an industry and a
65 university. The office shall structure the matching grants to provide
66 two rounds of funding annually and shall do outreach to companies.
67 The matching grant part of the program shall include, but not be
68 limited to, (A) one-to-one matching grants not to exceed one hundred
69 thousand dollars, with in-kind match allowed for small and mid-sized
70 companies, (B) involvement of a competitive process with outside
71 reviewers using as key criteria (i) the demonstration of commercial
72 relevance, and (ii) a clear path to the marketplace for any innovations
73 developed in the course of the research, and (C) an aggressive
74 marketing campaign through business organizations to raise industry
75 awareness of university resources.

76 (d) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall, within available
77 appropriations, establish a grant program to provide funding for the
78 promotion of commercialization of research done by institutions of
79 higher education. Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded
80 to institutions of higher education and business entities and may be
81 used to:

82 (1) Provide funding to verify the technical and commercial
83 feasibility of early stage discoveries by institutions of higher education
84 that are disclosed or patented to accelerate and increase the likelihood
85 that the technology will be successfully commercialized; and

86 (2) Provide matching support for smaller institutions of higher
87 education to allow for contracts with independent technology transfer
88 organizations to provide specific service to support specific needs.

89 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Grants under section 2 of this
90 act shall be awarded based on the following order of priority:

91 (1) Grants that focus on key technology areas to give Connecticut a
92 competitive advantage in the knowledge economy;

93 (2) Grants that create certificate and degree programs to encourage
94 talent generation;

95 (3) Grants that promote multiinstitutional collaboration across
96 public and private institutions of higher education;

97 (4) Grants that involve multiple activities, enhance research
98 capabilities, promote applied research collaborations and advance the
99 commercialization of research of institutions of higher education; and

100 (5) Grants that include matching funds from institutions of higher
101 education or business entities.

102 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of Workforce
103 Competitiveness shall, within available appropriations and in
104 consultation with the nanotechnology advisory council established

105 under subsection (b) of this section, prepare recommendations to
106 advance this state's position in nanotechnology development,
107 including recommended state investments to increase university
108 research, develop centers of excellence and shared use facilities,
109 promote partnerships and collaborations involving technology-based
110 business and industry with institutions of higher education, and
111 advance education and training programs in nanotechnology fields.
112 No later than January 1, 2006, the Office of Workforce Competitiveness
113 shall report its findings, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
114 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
115 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and
116 employment advancement.

117 (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall establish an
118 Advisory Council on Nanotechnology to guide the work set out under
119 subsection (a) of this section. The advisory council shall be chaired by
120 the executive director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and
121 shall include representatives from state agencies, including the
122 Department of Economic and Community Development, the
123 Connecticut Development Authority and Connecticut Innovations,
124 Incorporated, public and private institutions of higher education and
125 representatives from the technology industry selected by the executive
126 director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

127 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
128 Economic and Community Development, the chairperson of
129 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the president of The University
130 of Connecticut and the chairperson of the Connecticut Development
131 Authority, or their respective designees, shall prepare, within available
132 appropriations, and in consultation with the Governor's
133 Competitiveness Council, the Commissioner of Education, the
134 Commissioner of Higher Education, the chancellors of the community-
135 technical college system and the Connecticut State University system,
136 the director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and any other
137 agencies and leading technology focused organizations deemed
138 appropriate by the Commissioner of Economic and Community

139 Development, recommendations for an implementation plan and
140 budget to establish an Innovation Network that will include the
141 following: (1) The creation of endowed chairs and the hiring of leading
142 academic professionals in targeted fields based on core competencies
143 to work at universities, state colleges and community colleges, in
144 collaboration with other technology initiatives; (2) the focused and
145 aggressive solicitation of and leveraged partnership with federal
146 research funds; (3) increased corporate-sponsored research; (4) the
147 establishment of at least one innovation accelerator, linked to
148 universities and involving corporations and start-up enterprises
149 focused on advanced technology and leveraging the efforts underway
150 by the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology in the Hartford
151 area; (5) the strengthening of technology transfer and entrepreneurship
152 activities at universities in the state; (6) incentives and financial
153 support for collaborative research between universities and industry or
154 federally sponsored technology centers; (7) the creation of linkages to
155 angel networks; and (8) the creation of linkages to incubators in
156 Connecticut. Said plan shall also include provisions for the utilization
157 of existing resources, including, but not limited to, Connecticut
158 Innovations, Incorporated, the Connecticut Development Authority,
159 The University of Connecticut and the Office of Workforce
160 Competitiveness.

161 (b) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Economic
162 and Community Development, in consultation with the chairperson of
163 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the president of the University
164 of Connecticut and the chairperson of the Connecticut Development
165 Authority, shall develop an implementation plan for the Innovation
166 Network, within available resources, and submit said plan and budget
167 to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General
168 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to economic
169 development, education and labor, in accordance with the provisions
170 of section 11-4a of the general statutes."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	4-124ff(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section