



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7340

LCO No. 5408

05408_____CE_

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING JOB GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-9i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) A job incentive account is hereby created within the General
4 Fund. There shall be deposited in said account all moneys received by
5 or appropriated to the Department of Economic and Community
6 Development from time to time therefor. In order to stimulate and
7 encourage the creation and growth of jobs in areas of high
8 unemployment, the state, acting by the Department of Economic and
9 Community Development, may provide job incentive grants to eligible
10 businesses, whose new or expanded facilities are located in an eligible
11 municipality having high unemployment and which facility results in
12 the creation of not less than five full-time jobs during a period not
13 exceeding twenty-four months, as provided in sections 32-9i to 32-9l,
14 inclusive.

15 (b) Amounts in the job incentive account shall be used for the

16 purpose of making such grants to businesses which are eligible for
17 such assistance, and which make application for and receive approval
18 for such assistance from the Commissioner of Economic and
19 Community Development.

20 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 32-9j of the general statutes is
21 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
22 *October 1, 2007*):

23 (b) "Eligible business facility" means (1) a business facility located in
24 an eligible municipality and for which a certificate of eligibility or
25 commitment letter has been issued by the department prior to March
26 1, 1991; [or] (2) a business facility for which a certificate of eligibility
27 has been issued by the department and which is located in an
28 enterprise zone designated pursuant to section 32-70; or (3) a business
29 operating a recycling facility. A business facility for which such a
30 certificate is issued shall be deemed an eligible business facility only
31 during the twenty-four-month period following the day on which the
32 certificate of eligibility is issued. A business facility may not become an
33 eligible business facility for the purposes of sections 32-9i to 32-9l,
34 inclusive, unless it meets each of the following requirements: (A) It is a
35 facility which does not primarily serve said eligible municipality in
36 which it is located. A facility shall be deemed to meet this requirement
37 if it is used primarily for the manufacturing, processing or assembling
38 of raw materials or manufactured products, or for research or
39 industrial warehousing, or any combination thereof or, if located in an
40 enterprise zone designated pursuant to section 32-70, it is to be used by
41 an establishment, an auxiliary or an operating unit of an establishment,
42 as such terms are defined in the Standard Industrial Classification
43 Manual, in the categories of depository institutions, nondepository
44 credit institutions, insurance carriers, holding or other investment
45 offices, business services, health services, fishing, hunting and
46 trapping, motor freight transportation and warehousing, water
47 transportation, transportation by air, transportation services, security
48 and commodity brokers, dealers, exchanges and services or

49 engineering, accounting, research, management and related services
50 from the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, which
51 establishment, auxiliary or operating unit shows a strong performance
52 in exporting goods and services, as defined by the commissioner
53 through regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of
54 chapter 54. A facility shall not be deemed to meet this requirement if (i)
55 it is used primarily in making retail sales of goods or services to
56 customers who personally visit such facility to obtain such goods or
57 services, or (ii) it is used primarily as a hotel, apartment house or other
58 place of business which furnishes dwelling space or accommodations
59 to either residents or transients; (B) it is a facility which is newly
60 constructed or has undergone major expansion or renovation as
61 determined by the Commissioner of Economic and Community
62 Development; [.] and (C) it is a facility which will create in the eligible
63 municipality in which it is located, as a direct result of such
64 construction, expansion or renovation, not less than five new
65 employment positions, or in the case of a facility located in an
66 enterprise zone designated pursuant to section 32-70, not less than
67 three new employment positions in the enterprise zone.

68 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of
69 Economic and Community Development shall establish a program of
70 support for business and property owners who undertake energy
71 conservation and improvement projects, including environmental
72 testing or remediation. Such support may include loans or grants to
73 offset the costs of such projects. Priority for funding under this section
74 may be given to manufacturers who upgrade their operations to be
75 more environmentally safe.

76 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
77 the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
78 provisions of this section. Such regulations shall include, but need not
79 be limited to, (1) a description of eligible energy conservation projects,
80 (2) eligibility criteria for business and property owners, (3) terms and
81 conditions of the financial assistance offered, and (4) application

82 procedures.

83 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Commissioner of Economic and
 84 Community Development, in consultation with the Secretary of the
 85 Office of Policy and Management, shall conduct a study of fees
 86 charged by state and municipal governments in connection with new
 87 construction projects. With regard to building permits, said
 88 commissioner shall (1) conduct a review of the fees charged for
 89 building permits in municipalities throughout the state, (2) determine
 90 the impact of such charges on economic development projects, and (3)
 91 consider the revenue to municipalities from such charges. With regard
 92 to other fees, said commissioner shall determine the amounts charged,
 93 the impact upon new construction, and the benefits of a rebate of such
 94 fees. Based upon the findings, on or before January 1, 2008, the
 95 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
 96 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee
 97 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 98 commerce, with findings and recommendations regarding any
 99 advisable adjustments to building permit fees or other fees, and the
 100 benefits of a rebate program, to encourage economic development.

101 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
 102 to the Department of Economic and Community Development, from
 103 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for job
 104 incentive grants and job training pursuant to section 32-9i of the
 105 general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	32-9i
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	32-9j(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To enhance the Urban Jobs program.

[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.]