



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Raised Bill No. 1352**

LCO No. 4715

\*04715\_\_\_\_\_PD\_\*

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:  
(PD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES AND URBAN REVITALIZATION.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) (1) "Eligible  
2 municipality" means a municipality ranked from one to eight,  
3 inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order from  
4 one to eight based on town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of  
5 section 10-262f of the general statutes; and

6 (2) "Eligible entity" means a municipal agency or nonprofit  
7 organization operating within an eligible municipality.

8 (b) Within available appropriations, and not later than October 1,  
9 2007, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
10 establish an urban youth enrichment competitive grant program.  
11 Grants may be made to eligible entities to administer out-of-school  
12 time activities to local youth. Grants made under this section shall be  
13 used to provide eligible programs and services for youth between  
14 twelve and eighteen years of age. Such programs and services shall  
15 include, but not be limited to: (1) Mentoring and tutoring activities; (2)

16 job training and experience; (3) social and cultural activities; (4) athletic  
17 and recreational opportunities; and (5) training in problem-solving,  
18 decision-making, conflict resolution, peer counseling and similar  
19 topics designed to enhance positive youth development. Grant  
20 recipients shall provide for parental and youth involvement, on an  
21 ongoing basis, in the planning and operation of such program.

22 (c) Each eligible entity may apply to the office for a grant, at such  
23 time and in such manner as the secretary prescribes. In awarding a  
24 grant under this section, the secretary shall consider: (1) Whether the  
25 proposal shows collaboration with local schools and other nonprofit  
26 organizations to expand youth access to programs funded by a grant  
27 made under this section; (2) the scope and hours of operation of the  
28 programs offered to ensure that activities are readily available to local  
29 youth during out-of-school times; and (3) the number of youth that can  
30 be served by such program.

31 (d) Grants made under this section shall be used to provide eligible  
32 programs and services for youth between twelve and eighteen years of  
33 age. Such programs and services shall include, but not be limited to: (1)  
34 Mentoring and tutoring activities; (2) job training and experience; (3)  
35 social and cultural activities; (4) athletic and recreational opportunities;  
36 and (5) training in problem-solving, decision-making, conflict  
37 resolution, peer counseling and similar topics designed to enhance  
38 positive youth development. Grant recipients shall provide for  
39 parental and youth involvement, on an ongoing basis, in the planning  
40 and operation of such program.

41 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) As used in this section:

42 (1) "Eligible municipality" means a municipality ranked from one to  
43 eight, inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order  
44 from one to eight based on town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26)  
45 of section 10-262f of the general statutes; and

46 (2) "Eligible entity" means a municipal agency or nonprofit

47 organization operating within an eligible municipality.

48 (b) Within available appropriations, and not later than October 1,  
49 2007, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
50 establish an urban opportunities alliance competitive grant program.  
51 Grants may be made to eligible entities for a one-stop center  
52 connecting urban youth to organizations providing youth employment  
53 opportunities, tutoring and mentoring services, juvenile justice  
54 diversionary programs, and activities for enrichment and recreation.  
55 Each eligible entity may apply for a grant, at such time and in such  
56 manner as the secretary prescribes. In awarding a grant under this  
57 section, the secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the following  
58 factors: (1) Whether the proposal demonstrates a comprehensive  
59 strategy to coordinate services and connect local organizations to local  
60 youth, (2) whether the proposal shows collaboration with local schools  
61 and other nonprofit organizations to expand access to such program,  
62 and (3) the number of youth expected to be served by such program  
63 and how such number would be reached.

64 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Within available appropriations,  
65 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall establish a  
66 year-round youth career opportunities grant program. Grants may be  
67 made to nonprofit organizations that demonstrate successful strategies  
68 for helping persons between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four  
69 build career competencies, obtain career experience and training,  
70 graduate from high school and receive counseling on education  
71 opportunities beyond high school. Applicants may apply to the office  
72 for such grant, at such time and in such manner as the secretary  
73 prescribes, provided no award shall be made except to a nonprofit  
74 entity located in a municipality ranked from one to eight, inclusive,  
75 when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order from one to  
76 eight based on town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section  
77 10-262f of the general statutes. In awarding a grant under this section,  
78 the secretary shall consider: (1) Whether the proposal shows  
79 collaboration with local schools, institutions of higher education, the

80 local business community and other pertinent entities that provide job-  
81 related services to youth, (2) the scope of programs available and  
82 hours of operation of the program to ensure activities are readily  
83 available to local youth, and (3) the number of youth that can be  
84 served by such program.

85 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) Within available  
86 appropriations, the Department of Administrative Services and the  
87 Office of Legislative Management shall adopt personnel policies  
88 providing state employees up to one hour per week and no more than  
89 forty hours per year of paid leave for the purpose of serving as  
90 volunteer mentors and tutors in approved programs.

91 (b) (1) As used in this subsection, "eligible municipality" means a  
92 municipality ranked from one to eight, inclusive, when all  
93 municipalities are ranked in ascending order from one to eight based  
94 on town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the  
95 general statutes.

96 (2) Within available appropriations, and not later than October 1,  
97 2007, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
98 establish a public service mentors grant program to provide matching  
99 grants to eligible municipalities for reimbursement of fifty per cent of  
100 the costs of providing municipal employees up to one hour per week  
101 and no more than forty hours per year of paid leave for the purpose of  
102 serving as volunteer mentors and tutors in approved programs. Each  
103 eligible municipality may apply to the office for such grant, at such  
104 time and in such manner as the secretary prescribes.

105 (3) The secretary shall award grants only to eligible municipalities  
106 whose applications include a process for public employees to serve as  
107 mentors or tutors and whose applications demonstrate: (1) A strategy  
108 for recruiting public employees as tutors and mentors, (2)  
109 collaboration among local schools and nonprofit organizations that  
110 provide youth services and enrichment activities to identify and  
111 register youth into the mentoring program, (3) collaboration with local

112 schools and other nonprofit organizations to train mentors and inform  
113 them about resources available to them and youth, and (4)  
114 collaboration with local business organizations and regional workforce  
115 development boards to provide career mentoring opportunities to  
116 adolescents.

117 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) As used in this section:

118 (1) "Eligible municipality" means a municipality ranked from one to  
119 eight, inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order  
120 from one to eight based on town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26)  
121 of section 10-262f of the general statutes; and

122 (2) "Eligible entity" means a municipal agency or nonprofit  
123 organization operating within an eligible municipality.

124 (b) Within available appropriations, and not later than October 1,  
125 2007, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
126 establish a community young artists pilot competitive grant program  
127 to provide competitive grants to municipalities and nonprofit  
128 organizations located in urban communities providing arts education  
129 and related training to local youth. Each eligible entity may apply to  
130 the office for such grant, at such time and in such manner as the  
131 secretary prescribes. In awarding a grant under this section, the  
132 secretary shall consider factors relating to: (1) Whether the proposal  
133 shows collaboration with an arts program affiliated with an institution  
134 of higher education, (2) whether the proposal shows collaboration with  
135 local schools and other nonprofit organizations to expand access to  
136 such program, (3) the scope of programs available and hours of  
137 operation of the program to ensure activities are readily available to  
138 local youth, and (4) the number of youth that can be served by such  
139 program.

140 Sec. 6. Section 10-416a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
141 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007, and*  
142 *applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2008*):

143 (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the  
144 following meanings unless the context clearly indicates another  
145 meaning:

146 (1) "Commission" means the Connecticut Commission on Culture  
147 and Tourism established pursuant to section 10-392;

148 (2) "Certified historic structure" means an historic commercial or  
149 industrial property that: (A) Is listed individually on the National or  
150 State Register of Historic Places, or (B) is located in a district listed on  
151 the National or State Register of Historic Places, and has been certified  
152 by the commission as contributing to the historic character of such  
153 district;

154 (3) "Certified rehabilitation" means any rehabilitation of a certified  
155 historic structure for residential use or for a mixed use consisting of  
156 primarily residential uses consistent with the historic character of such  
157 property or the district in which the property is located as determined  
158 by regulations adopted by the commission;

159 (4) "Owner" means any person, firm, limited liability company,  
160 nonprofit or for-profit corporation or other business entity which  
161 possesses title to an historic structure and undertakes the rehabilitation  
162 of such structure;

163 (5) "Placed in service" means that substantial rehabilitation work has  
164 been completed which would allow for issuance of a certificate of  
165 occupancy for the entire building or, in projects completed in phases,  
166 for individual residential units that are an identifiable portion of the  
167 building;

168 (6) "Qualified rehabilitation expenditures" means any costs incurred  
169 for the physical construction involved in the rehabilitation of a  
170 certified historic structure for residential use, excluding: (A) The  
171 owner's personal labor, (B) the cost of a new addition, except as  
172 required to comply with any provision of the State Building Code or

173 the State Fire Safety Code, and (C) any nonconstruction cost such as  
174 architectural fees, legal fees and financing fees;

175 (7) "Rehabilitation plan" means any construction plans and  
176 specifications for the proposed rehabilitation of a certified historic  
177 structure in sufficient detail for evaluation by compliance with the  
178 standards developed under the provisions of subsections (b) to (d),  
179 inclusive, of this section; and

180 (8) "Substantial rehabilitation" or "substantially rehabilitate" means  
181 the qualified rehabilitation expenditures of a certified historic structure  
182 that exceed twenty-five per cent of the assessed value of such  
183 structure.

184 (b) (1) The commission shall administer a system of tax credit  
185 vouchers within the resources, requirements and purposes of this  
186 section for owners rehabilitating certified historic structures.

187 (2) The credit authorized by this section shall be available in the tax  
188 year in which the substantially rehabilitated certified historic structure  
189 is placed in service. In the case of projects completed in phases, the tax  
190 credit shall be prorated to the substantially rehabilitated identifiable  
191 portion of the building placed in service. If the tax credit is more than  
192 the amount owed by the taxpayer for the year in which the  
193 substantially rehabilitated certified historic structure is placed in  
194 service, the amount that is more than the taxpayer's tax liability may be  
195 carried forward and credited against the taxes imposed for the  
196 succeeding five years or until the full credit is used, whichever occurs  
197 first.

198 (3) Any credits allowed under this section that are provided to  
199 multiple owners of certified historic structures shall be passed through  
200 to persons designated as partners, members or owners, pro rata or  
201 pursuant to an agreement among such persons designated as partners,  
202 members or owners documenting an alternative distribution method  
203 without regard to other tax or economic attributes of such entity. Any

204 owner entitled to a credit under this section may assign, transfer or  
205 convey the credits, in whole or in part, by sale or otherwise to any  
206 individual or entity and such transferee shall be entitled to offset the  
207 tax imposed under chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or 212 as if such  
208 transferee had incurred the qualified rehabilitation expenditure.

209 (c) The commission shall develop standards for the approval of  
210 rehabilitation of certified historic structures for which a tax credit  
211 voucher is sought. Such standards shall take into account whether the  
212 rehabilitation of a certified historic structure will preserve the historic  
213 character of the building.

214 (d) The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
215 chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of this section. Such regulations  
216 shall include provisions for filing of applications, rating criteria and for  
217 timely approval by the commission.

218 (e) Prior to beginning any rehabilitation work on a certified historic  
219 structure, the [owner] applicant shall submit (1) a rehabilitation plan to  
220 the commission for a determination of whether or not such  
221 rehabilitation work meets the standards developed under the  
222 provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section, [and] (2)  
223 an estimate of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures, and (3) for  
224 projects pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this section, the  
225 applicant shall provide the number of affordable housing units to be  
226 created, as defined in section 8-39a, the proposed rents or sale prices of  
227 such units and the median income for the municipality where the  
228 project is located. Applicants seeking a tax credit pursuant to  
229 subdivision (2 ) of subsection (f) of this section shall submit a copy of  
230 the application to the Department of Economic and Community  
231 Development. The provisions of this subsection shall not disqualify  
232 applications for tax credits for certified historic structures for which  
233 rehabilitation commenced but were not placed in service before July 1,  
234 2006.

235 (f) If the commission certifies that the rehabilitation plan conforms

236 to the standards developed under the provisions of subsections (b) to  
237 (d), inclusive, of this section, the commission shall reserve for the  
238 benefit of the owner an allocation for a tax credit equivalent to (1)  
239 twenty-five per cent of the projected qualified rehabilitation  
240 expenditures, [not exceeding two million seven hundred thousand  
241 dollars] or (2) thirty per cent of the projected qualified rehabilitation  
242 expenditures if at least twenty per cent of the units qualify as  
243 affordable housing pursuant to section 8-39a.

244 (g) Following the completion of rehabilitation of a certified historic  
245 structure, the owner shall notify the commission that such  
246 rehabilitation has been completed. The owner shall provide the  
247 commission with documentation of work performed on the certified  
248 historic structure and shall submit certification of the costs incurred in  
249 rehabilitating the certified historic structure. The commission shall  
250 review such rehabilitation and verify its compliance with the  
251 rehabilitation plan. Following such verification, the commission shall  
252 issue a tax credit voucher to the owner rehabilitating the certified  
253 historic structure or to the taxpayer named by the owner as  
254 contributing to the rehabilitation. The tax credit voucher shall be in an  
255 amount equivalent to the lesser of the tax credit reserved upon  
256 certification of the rehabilitation plan under the provisions of  
257 subsection (f) of this section or for certified rehabilitation projects  
258 twenty-five per cent of the actual qualified rehabilitation expenditures  
259 [not exceeding two million seven hundred thousand dollars] or for  
260 projects including affordable housing pursuant to subdivision (2) of  
261 subsection (f) of this section, thirty per cent of the actual qualified  
262 certified expenditures. In order to obtain a credit against any state tax  
263 due that is specified in subsections (h) to (k), inclusive, of this section,  
264 the holder of the tax credit voucher shall file the voucher with the  
265 holder's state tax return.

266 (h) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a tax credit to  
267 a taxpayer holding the tax credit voucher issued under subsections (e)  
268 to (i), inclusive, of this section against any tax due under chapter 207,

269 208, 209, 210, 211 or 212 in the amount specified in the tax credit  
270 voucher. Such taxpayer shall submit the voucher and the  
271 corresponding tax return to the Department of Revenue Services.

272 [(i) The aggregate amount of all tax credits which may be reserved  
273 by the commission upon certification of rehabilitation plans under  
274 subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section shall not exceed fifteen  
275 million dollars in any one fiscal year.]

276 [(j)] (i) The commission may charge an application fee in an amount  
277 not to exceed ten thousand dollars to cover the cost of administering  
278 the program established pursuant to this section.

279 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of  
280 Economic and Community Development may charge an application  
281 fee in an amount not to exceed two thousand dollars to cover the cost  
282 of maintaining applications and monitoring projects for compliance  
283 with affordable housing provisions pursuant to section 8-39a of the  
284 general statutes and for projects that qualify for affordable housing tax  
285 credits pursuant to section 10-416a of the general statutes, as amended  
286 by this act.

287 (b) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
288 shall adopt regulations pursuant to chapter 54 of the general statutes  
289 regarding the monitoring of projects that qualify for affordable  
290 housing tax credits pursuant to section 10-416a of the general statutes,  
291 as amended by this act, by the Department of Economic and  
292 Community Development, local housing authorities, municipalities or  
293 other public agencies designated by the department. Such regulations  
294 shall include provisions for ensuring that affordable units developed  
295 under subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 10-416a of the general  
296 statutes, as amended by this act, are maintained as affordable for a  
297 minimum of ten years and may require deed restrictions or other fiscal  
298 mechanisms designed to ensure compliance with project requirements.

299 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 4-66c of the general statutes is  
300 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
301 *1, 2007*):

302 (c) Any proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized pursuant to  
303 subsections (a) and (b) of this section or of temporary notes issued in  
304 anticipation of the moneys to be derived from the sale of such bonds  
305 may be used to fund (1) grants-in-aid to municipalities, or to an  
306 intermediary designated by a municipality receiving a grant-in-aid,  
307 provided such intermediary invests such funds consistent with and  
308 toward qualifying for federal new markets tax credits, or (2) the grant-  
309 in-aid programs of said departments, including, but not limited to,  
310 financial assistance and expenses authorized under chapters 128, 129,  
311 130, 133, 136 and 298, and section 16a-40a, provided any such program  
312 shall be implemented in an eligible municipality or is for projects in  
313 other municipalities which the State Bond Commission determines will  
314 help to meet the goals set forth in section 4-66b. For the purposes of  
315 this section, "eligible municipality" means a municipality which is  
316 economically distressed within the meaning of subsection (b) of section  
317 32-9p, which is classified as an urban center in any plan adopted by the  
318 General Assembly pursuant to section 16a-30, which is classified as a  
319 public investment community within the meaning of subdivision (9) of  
320 subsection (a) of section 7-545, or in which the State Bond Commission  
321 determines that the project in question will help meet the goals set  
322 forth in section 4-66b. Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
323 subsection, proceeds from the sale of bonds pursuant to this section  
324 may, with the approval of the State Bond Commission, be used for  
325 transit-oriented development projects, as defined in section 13b-79o, in  
326 any municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007, and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2008</i>	10-416a
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	4-66c(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide tax credits for affordable housing and funds to eligible municipalities for (1) urban youth enrichment, (2) establishment of a one-stop center connecting urban youth to organizations providing youth employment opportunities, tutoring and mentoring services, juvenile justice diversionary programs and enrichment and recreation activities, (3) development of successful strategies to help youth build career competencies, obtain career experience and training, (4) establishment of mentoring opportunities for public employees, and (5) arts education and related training to local youth.

*[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.]*