



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1352

January Session, 2007

* SB01352FIN__052207__ *

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) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Eligible municipality" means a municipality ranked from one to
3 eight, inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order
4 from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on town wealth, as defined
5 in subdivision (26) of 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.

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

29 (d) Grant recipients shall provide for parental and youth
30 involvement, on an ongoing basis, in the planning and operation of
31 programs funded under this section.

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

33 (1) "Eligible municipality" means a municipality ranked from one to
34 eight, inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order
35 from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on town wealth, as defined
36 in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes; and

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

39 (b) Within available appropriations, and not later than October 1,
40 2007, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
41 establish an urban opportunities alliance competitive grant program.
42 Grants may be made to eligible entities for a one-stop center
43 connecting urban youth to organizations providing youth employment
44 opportunities, tutoring and mentoring services, juvenile justice
45 diversionary programs, and activities for enrichment and recreation.
46 Each eligible entity may apply for a grant, at such time and in such
47 manner as the secretary prescribes. In awarding a grant under this
48 section, the secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the following
49 factors: (1) Whether the proposal demonstrates a comprehensive

50 strategy to coordinate services and connect local organizations to local
51 youth, (2) whether the proposal shows collaboration with local schools
52 and other nonprofit organizations to expand access to such program,
53 and (3) the number of youth expected to be served by such program
54 and how such number would be reached.

55 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Within available appropriations,
56 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall establish a
57 year-round youth career opportunities grant program. Grants may be
58 made to nonprofit organizations that demonstrate successful strategies
59 for helping persons between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four
60 build career competencies, obtain career experience and training,
61 graduate from high school and receive counseling on education
62 opportunities beyond high school. Applicants may apply to the office
63 for such grant, at such time and in such manner as the secretary
64 prescribes, provided no award shall be made except to a nonprofit
65 entity located in a municipality ranked from one to eight, inclusive,
66 when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order from one to one
67 hundred sixty-nine based on town wealth, as defined in subdivision
68 (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes. In awarding a grant
69 under this section, the secretary shall consider: (1) Whether the
70 proposal shows collaboration with local schools, institutions of higher
71 education, the local business community and other pertinent entities
72 that provide job-related services to youth, (2) the scope of programs
73 available and hours of operation of the program to ensure activities are
74 readily available to local youth, and (3) the number of youth that can
75 be served by such program.

76 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) As used in this section,
77 "eligible municipality" means a municipality ranked from one to eight,
78 inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order from
79 one to one hundred sixty-nine based on town wealth, as defined in
80 subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes.

81 (b) Within available appropriations, and not later than October 1,
82 2007, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall

83 establish a public service mentors grant program to provide matching
84 grants to eligible municipalities for reimbursement of fifty per cent of
85 the costs of providing municipal employees up to one hour per week
86 and no more than forty hours per year of paid leave for the purpose of
87 serving as volunteer mentors and tutors in approved programs. Each
88 eligible municipality may apply to the secretary for such grant, at such
89 time and in such manner as the secretary prescribes.

90 (c) The secretary shall award grants only to eligible municipalities
91 whose applications include a process for public employees to serve as
92 mentors or tutors and whose applications demonstrate: (1) A strategy
93 for recruiting public employees as tutors and mentors, (2)
94 collaboration among local schools and nonprofit organizations that
95 provide youth services and enrichment activities to identify and
96 register youth into the mentoring program, (3) collaboration with local
97 schools and other nonprofit organizations to train mentors and inform
98 them about resources available to them and youth, and (4)
99 collaboration with local business organizations and regional workforce
100 development boards to provide career mentoring opportunities to
101 adolescents.

102 Sec. 5. Section 5-249 of the general statutes is repealed and the
103 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

104 (a) Any state employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or
105 member of a volunteer ambulance service or company (1) may, with
106 the authorization of such employee's appointing authority, be
107 permitted to leave work in order to respond to fire calls or ambulance
108 calls during such employee's regular hours of employment without
109 loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulation,
110 or (2) shall be permitted to respond to such calls prior to reporting for
111 work without such prior authorization and without loss of pay,
112 vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulation, provided in
113 either case, if requested by such employee's appointing authority, such
114 employee submits a written statement from the chief of the volunteer
115 fire department or the medical director or chief administrator of the

116 volunteer ambulance service or company verifying that such employee
117 responded to a fire or ambulance call and specifying the date, time and
118 duration of such response.

119 (b) Any state employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer
120 of the American Red Cross may, with the authorization of such
121 employee's supervisor, be granted a leave not to exceed fourteen days
122 in each year to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the
123 American Red Cross, upon the request of the American Red Cross,
124 without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime
125 accumulation.

126 (c) Any state employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or
127 member of a volunteer ambulance service or company may, with the
128 authorization of such employee's appointing authority, be allowed to
129 attend training sessions or drills during such employee's regular hours
130 of employment without loss of pay, overtime accumulation or sick
131 leave.

132 (d) Any state employee who is an active member of a volunteer
133 canine search and rescue team (1) may, with the authorization of such
134 employee's supervisor, be permitted to leave work in order to respond
135 to search or rescue calls during such employee's regular hours of
136 employment without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned
137 overtime accumulation, or (2) shall be permitted to respond to such
138 calls prior to reporting for work without such prior authorization and
139 without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime
140 accumulation, provided in either case, if requested by such employee's
141 supervisor, such employee submits a written statement from the chief
142 of the police or fire department verifying that such employee
143 responded to a search or rescue call and specifying the date, time and
144 duration of such response. As used in this subsection, "volunteer
145 canine search and rescue team" means an individual and a dog (A)
146 appropriately trained and certified to engage in search and rescue
147 operations by a nonprofit canine search and rescue organization that is
148 a member of the National Association of Search and Rescue, or its

149 successor organization, and (B) who jointly engage in such operations
150 at the request of a police or fire department and provide services
151 without compensation.

152 (e) Within available appropriations, any state employee who is a
153 volunteer mentor in a public service mentor program sponsored by an
154 eligible municipality receiving funding pursuant to section 4 of this act
155 may, with the authorization of such employee's appointing authority,
156 be granted a leave not to exceed up to one hour per week and no more
157 than forty hours per year of paid leave for the purpose of serving as a
158 volunteer mentor in such program without loss of pay, overtime
159 accumulation or sick leave.

160 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) As used in this section:

161 (1) "Eligible municipality" means a municipality ranked from one to
162 eight, inclusive, when all municipalities are ranked in ascending order
163 from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on town wealth, as defined
164 in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes; and

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

167 (b) Within available appropriations, and not later than October 1,
168 2007, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
169 establish a community young artists pilot competitive grant program
170 to provide competitive grants to municipalities and nonprofit
171 organizations located in urban communities providing arts education
172 and related training to local youth. Each eligible entity may apply to
173 the secretary for such grant, at such time and in such manner as the
174 secretary prescribes. In awarding a grant under this section, the
175 secretary shall consider factors relating to: (1) Whether the proposal
176 shows collaboration with an arts program affiliated with an institution
177 of higher education, (2) whether the proposal shows collaboration with
178 local schools and other nonprofit organizations to expand access to
179 such program, (3) the scope of programs available and hours of
180 operation of the program to ensure activities are readily available to

181 local youth, and (4) the number of youth that can be served by such
182 program.

183 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007, and applicable to income years*
184 *commencing on or after January 1, 2008*) (a) As used in this section, the
185 following terms shall have the following meanings:

186 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and
187 Community Development;

188 (2) "Certified historic structure" means an historic commercial or
189 industrial property that (A) is listed individually on the National or
190 State Register of Historic Places, or (B) is located in a district listed on
191 the National or State Register of Historic Places, and has been certified
192 by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism as
193 contributing to the historic character of such district;

194 (3) "Certified rehabilitation" means any rehabilitation of a certified
195 historic structure for mixed use, as approved by the commissioner
196 pursuant to this section;

197 (4) "Mixed-use structure" means a certified historic structure used
198 for both residential and commercial purposes in which more than fifty
199 per cent of the total floor area of such structure is used exclusively for
200 residential purposes;

201 (5) "Owner" means any person, firm, limited liability company,
202 nonprofit or for-profit corporation or other business entity which
203 possesses title to a mixed-use structure and undertakes the
204 rehabilitation of such structure;

205 (6) "Placed in service" means that substantial rehabilitation work has
206 been completed which would allow for issuance of a certificate of
207 occupancy for the entire structure or, in projects completed in phases,
208 for individual residential or commercial units that are an identifiable
209 portion of the structure;

210 (7) "Qualified rehabilitation expenditures" means any costs incurred

211 for the physical construction involved in the rehabilitation of a mixed-
212 use structure, excluding: (A) The owner's personal labor, (B) the cost of
213 a new addition, except as required to comply with any provision of the
214 State Building Code or the State Fire Safety Code, and (C) any
215 nonconstruction cost such as architectural fees, legal fees or financing
216 fees;

217 (8) "Rehabilitation plan" means any construction plans and
218 specifications for the proposed rehabilitation of a mixed-use structure
219 in sufficient detail for evaluation for compliance with the standards
220 developed under the provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (j) of this
221 section; and

222 (9) "Substantial rehabilitation" or "substantially rehabilitate" means
223 the qualified rehabilitation expenditures of a mixed-use structure that
224 exceed twenty-five per cent of the assessed value of such structure.

225 (b) (1) The commissioner shall administer a system of tax credit
226 vouchers within the resources, requirements and purposes of this
227 section for owners rehabilitating mixed-use structures.

228 (2) The credit authorized by this section shall be available in the tax
229 year in which the substantially rehabilitated mixed-use structure is
230 placed in service. In the case of projects completed in phases, the tax
231 credit shall be prorated to the substantially rehabilitated identifiable
232 portion of the structure placed in service. If the tax credit is more than
233 the amount owed by the taxpayer for the year in which the
234 substantially rehabilitated mixed-use structure is placed in service, the
235 amount that is more than the taxpayer's tax liability may be carried
236 forward and credited against the taxes imposed for the succeeding five
237 years or until the full credit is used, whichever occurs first.

238 (3) Any credits allowed under this section that are provided to
239 multiple owners of mixed-use structures shall be passed through to
240 persons designated as partners, members or owners, pro rata or
241 pursuant to an agreement among such persons designated as partners,
242 members or owners, documenting an alternative distribution method

243 without regard to other tax or economic attributes of such entity. Any
244 owner entitled to a credit under this section may assign, transfer or
245 convey the credits, in whole or in part, by sale or otherwise to any
246 individual or entity and such transferee shall be entitled to offset the
247 tax imposed under chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or 212 of the general
248 statutes as if such transferee had incurred the qualified rehabilitation
249 expenditure.

250 (c) The commissioner shall develop standards for the approval of
251 the rehabilitation of mixed-use structures for which a tax credit
252 voucher is sought. Such standards shall take into account whether the
253 rehabilitation of a mixed-use structure will preserve the economic
254 viability of the building and increase the supply of affordable housing.

255 (d) Prior to beginning any rehabilitation work on a mixed-use
256 structure, the applicant shall submit to the commissioner (1) a
257 rehabilitation plan for a determination of whether or not such
258 rehabilitation work meets the standards developed under the
259 provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (j) of this section, (2) an estimate
260 of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures, and (3) the number of
261 affordable housing units, as defined in section 8-39a of the general
262 statutes, to be created, the proposed rents or sale prices of such units,
263 and the median income for the municipality where the project is
264 located.

265 (e) If the commissioner certifies that the rehabilitation plan
266 conforms to the standards developed under the provisions of
267 subsections (b), (c) and (j) of this section, the commissioner shall
268 reserve for the benefit of the owner an allocation for a tax credit
269 equivalent to (1) twenty-five per cent of the projected qualified
270 rehabilitation expenditures, or (2) thirty per cent of the projected
271 qualified rehabilitation expenditures, provided at least twenty per cent
272 of the residential units qualify as affordable housing, as defined in
273 section 8-39a of the general statutes.

274 (f) Following the completion of rehabilitation of a mixed-use

275 structure, the owner shall notify the commissioner that such
276 rehabilitation has been completed. The owner shall provide the
277 commission with documentation of work performed on the mixed-use
278 structure and shall submit certification of the costs incurred in
279 rehabilitating the mixed-use structure. The commissioner shall review
280 such rehabilitation and verify its compliance with the rehabilitation
281 plan. Following such verification, the commissioner shall issue a tax
282 credit voucher to the owner rehabilitating the mixed-use structure or
283 to the taxpayer named by the owner as contributing to the
284 rehabilitation. The tax credit voucher shall be in an amount equivalent
285 to the lesser of (1) the tax credit reserved upon certification of the
286 rehabilitation plan under the provisions of subsection (e) of this
287 section, or (2) (A) twenty-five per cent of the actual qualified
288 rehabilitation expenditures, or (B) for projects wherein at least twenty
289 per cent of the residential units qualify as affordable housing, as
290 defined in section 8-39a of the general statutes, thirty per cent of the
291 actual qualified rehabilitation expenditures. In order to obtain a credit
292 against any state tax due that is specified in subdivision (3) of
293 subsection (b) of this section, the holder of the tax credit voucher shall
294 file the voucher with the holder's state tax return.

295 (g) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a tax credit to
296 a taxpayer holding the tax credit voucher issued pursuant to this
297 section against any tax due under chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or 212
298 of the general statutes in the amount specified in the tax credit
299 voucher. Such taxpayer shall submit the voucher and the
300 corresponding tax return to the Department of Revenue Services.

301 (h) The aggregate amount of all tax credits which may be reserved
302 by the commissioner upon certification of rehabilitation plans
303 pursuant to this section shall not exceed fifteen million dollars in any
304 one fiscal year.

305 (i) The commissioner may charge an application fee in an amount
306 not to exceed two thousand dollars to cover the cost of processing
307 applications and monitoring projects that qualify for tax credits

308 pursuant to this section.

309 (j) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
310 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the
311 purposes of this section, including provisions for filing of applications,
312 rating criteria, timely approval by the commissioner, and for the
313 monitoring of projects qualifying for tax credits pursuant to this
314 section by the Department of Economic and Community Development,
315 local housing authorities, municipalities or other public agencies
316 designated by said department. Such regulations (1) shall include
317 provisions for ensuring that affordable residential units in projects
318 qualifying for tax credits pursuant to this section are maintained as
319 affordable for a minimum of ten years, and (2) may require deed
320 restrictions or other fiscal mechanisms designed to ensure compliance
321 with program requirements.

322 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 4-66c of the general statutes is
323 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
324 *1, 2007*):

325 (c) Any proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized pursuant to
326 subsections (a) and (b) of this section or of temporary notes issued in
327 anticipation of the moneys to be derived from the sale of such bonds
328 may be used to fund (1) grants-in-aid to municipalities, or to an
329 intermediary designated by a municipality receiving a grant-in-aid,
330 provided such intermediary invests such funds consistent with and
331 toward qualifying for federal new markets tax credits, or (2) the grant-
332 in-aid programs of said departments, including, but not limited to,
333 financial assistance and expenses authorized under chapters 128, 129,
334 130, 133, 136 and 298, and section 16a-40a, provided any such program
335 shall be implemented in an eligible municipality or is for projects in
336 other municipalities which the State Bond Commission determines will
337 help to meet the goals set forth in section 4-66b. For the purposes of
338 this section, "eligible municipality" means a municipality which is
339 economically distressed within the meaning of subsection (b) of section
340 32-9p, which is classified as an urban center in any plan adopted by the

341 General Assembly pursuant to section 16a-30, which is classified as a
 342 public investment community within the meaning of subdivision (9) of
 343 subsection (a) of section 7-545, or in which the State Bond Commission
 344 determines that the project in question will help meet the goals set
 345 forth in section 4-66b. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
 346 subsection, proceeds from the sale of bonds pursuant to this section
 347 may, with the approval of the State Bond Commission, be used for
 348 transit-oriented development projects, as defined in section 13b-79o, in
 349 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>	5-249
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2007, and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	4-66c(c)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Section 8 was struck from the bill because the substitute language in section 7 rendered it unnecessary and inconsistent.

FIN *Joint Favorable Subst.*