



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Amendment

LCO No. 7272

SB0141807272SD0

Offered by:
SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1418 File No. 355 Cal. No. 296

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF PROJECTS BY PRIVATE ENTITIES."

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

3 "Section 1. Section 32-725 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5 (a) There is established an Office of the Business Advocate. The
6 Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly, shall appoint a
7 person with knowledge of the characteristics and needs of businesses
8 and the resources provided by state, federal, quasi-governmental and
9 other organizations that are available to businesses. Such person shall
10 be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the
11 office as set forth in this section. The person appointed the Business
12 Advocate shall serve for a term of four years and may be reappointed
13 or shall continue to hold office until such person's successor is
14 appointed and qualified, or until removed as provided in section 16-5.

15 (b) The Office of the Business Advocate shall be in the [Office of
16 Policy and Management] Department of Economic and Community
17 Development for administrative purposes only.

18 (c) The Business Advocate may, within available funds, appoint
19 such staff as may be deemed necessary. The duties of the staff may
20 include the duties and powers of the Business Advocate if performed
21 under the direction of the Business Advocate.

22 (d) The General Assembly may annually appropriate such sums as
23 necessary for the payment of the salaries of the staff and for the
24 payment of office expenses and other actual expenses incurred by the
25 Business Advocate in the performance of [such] said advocate's duties.

26 (e) The Business Advocate shall annually submit to the Governor
27 and the chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General
28 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and
29 finance, revenue and bonding, in accordance with the provisions of
30 section 11-4a, a detailed report analyzing the work of the Office of the
31 Business Advocate, including a list of businesses and the services
32 provided to them by such office.

33 (f) The Business Advocate shall (1) serve as an information
34 clearinghouse for various public and private programs available to
35 assist businesses, and (2) identify specific micro businesses, as defined
36 in section 32-344, whose growth and success could benefit from state
37 or private assistance and contact such small businesses in order to (A)
38 identify their needs, (B) provide information about public and private
39 programs for meeting such needs, including, but not limited to,
40 technical assistance, job training and financial assistance, and (C)
41 arrange for the provision of such assistance to such businesses.

42 Sec. 2. Section 32-356 of the general statutes is repealed and the
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

44 (a) For purposes of this section, "incubator facilities" shall have the
45 same meaning as incubator facilities in section 32-34.

46 (b) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
47 [shall establish the] in consultation with the Connecticut Center for
48 Advanced Technology, shall administer a technology-based small
49 business incubator program. [to provide grants to entities operating
50 incubator facilities, as defined in section 32-34.] The department shall
51 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
52 implement the small business incubator program established pursuant
53 to this section. Such regulations shall establish parameters of a grant
54 program to be administered in conjunction with the Connecticut
55 Center for Advanced Technology. Such grants shall be used by [such
56 entities] small businesses operating within incubator facilities to
57 provide operating funds and related services, including business plan
58 preparation, assistance in acquiring financing and management
59 counseling.

60 (c) An entity shall submit an application for a grant pursuant to this
61 section to the commissioner, at such time and in such manner as the
62 commissioner shall prescribe in regulations adopted pursuant to
63 subsection [(d)] (b) of this section.

64 [(d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
65 the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the small business incubator
66 program established pursuant to this section. Such regulations shall
67 include (1) a description of entities eligible for grants under such
68 program, (2) a description of allowable expenditures for such grants,
69 (3) definitions of small businesses eligible for support pursuant to such
70 program, (4) directions regarding the form and content of the
71 application to be submitted by entities seeking grants, (5) schedules for
72 the awarding of grants, (6) standards indicating the bases upon which
73 grants shall be awarded, including (A) priorities, if any, for small
74 business incubator programs that provide certain support services, (B)
75 criteria relating to the background, experience and services offered by
76 the entity seeking a grant, and (C) any limitations on the amount of
77 grant any one entity may receive in one funding cycle, and (7) such
78 other provisions that the commissioner may find necessary for the
79 implementation of such program.]

80 [(e)] (d) There is established an account to be known as the small
81 business incubator account, which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
82 account within the General Fund. [The account shall contain all
83 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account and shall be
84 held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts.
85 Investment earnings from any moneys in the account shall be credited
86 to the account and shall become part of the assets of the account. Any
87 balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall not
88 lapse and shall be available for use for the fiscal year next succeeding.]
89 The commissioner may use funds from the account to provide grants
90 pursuant to this section.

91 (e) (1) There is established a Connecticut Center for Advanced
92 Technology Small Business Incubator Advisory Board. Said board
93 shall consist of: (A) The Commissioner of Economic and Community
94 Development, the president of the Connecticut Development
95 Authority and the executive director of Connecticut Innovations,
96 Incorporated, or their designees; (B) two members with experience in
97 the field of technology transfer and commercialization, to be appointed
98 by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (C) two members with
99 experience in new product and market development, to be appointed
100 by the president pro tempore of the Senate; and (D) two members with
101 experience in seed and early stage capital investment, to be appointed
102 by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
103 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to economic
104 development. All appointments to said board shall be made not later
105 than September 1, 2007.

106 (2) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
107 shall schedule the first meeting of said board on or before October 15,
108 2007. Thereafter, the board shall meet at least once annually to evaluate
109 the technology-based small business program established pursuant to
110 subsection (b) of this section.

111 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 4-168a of the general statutes is
112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

113 *passage*):

114 (c) Prior to the adoption of any proposed regulation that may have
115 an adverse impact on small businesses, each agency shall notify the
116 Department of Economic and Community Development and the Office
117 of the Business Advocate of its intent to adopt the proposed regulation.
118 [The Department of Economic and Community Development] Said
119 department and office shall advise and assist agencies in complying
120 with the provisions of this section.

121 Sec. 4. Section 32-47a of the general statutes is repealed and the
122 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

123 Not later than January first in each year, Connecticut Innovations,
124 Incorporated shall submit a business plan containing a summary of its
125 projected operations for the year to the joint standing committees of
126 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
127 Department of Economic and Community Development,
128 appropriations and capital bonding. Not later than November first,
129 annually, the corporation shall submit a report to the Commissioner of
130 Economic and Community Development, the Auditors of Public
131 Accounts and said joint standing committees, which shall include the
132 following information with respect to new and outstanding financial
133 assistance provided by the corporation during the twelve-month
134 period ending on June thirtieth next preceding the date of the report
135 for each financial assistance program administered by the corporation:
136 (1) A list of the names, addresses and locations of all recipients of such
137 assistance, (2) for each such recipient: (A) The business activities, (B)
138 the Standard Industrial Classification Manual codes, (C) the gross
139 revenues during the recipient's most recent fiscal year, if the recipient
140 is an organization that makes such information public in the normal
141 course of business, except that the gross revenue information will be
142 provided for a business separately, using a system in which no
143 company is listed by name but each is given a separate identity in a
144 manner consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 32-
145 40, (D) the number of employees at the time of application, (E) whether

146 the recipient is a minority or woman-owned business, (F) a summary
 147 of the terms and conditions for the assistance, including the type and
 148 amount of state financial assistance, job creation or retention
 149 requirements, and anticipated wage rates, and (G) the amount of
 150 investments from private and other nonstate sources that have been
 151 leveraged by the assistance, (3) the economic benefit criteria used in
 152 determining which applications have been approved or disapproved,
 153 and (4) for each recipient of assistance on or after July 1, 1991, a
 154 comparison between the number of jobs to be created, the number of
 155 jobs to be retained and the average wage rates for each such category
 156 of jobs, as projected in the recipient's application, versus the actual
 157 number of jobs created, the actual number of jobs retained and the
 158 average wage rates for each such category. The report shall also
 159 indicate the actual number of full-time jobs and the actual number of
 160 part-time jobs in each such category and the benefit levels for each
 161 such subcategory. The chairpersons of the joint standing committees of
 162 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance,
 163 revenue and bonding and commerce and the Governor may examine,
 164 in confidence, the detailed data, including the specific revenue data for
 165 each identifiable business, submitted pursuant to subdivisions (1) and
 166 (2) of this section. The November first report shall include a summary
 167 of the activities of the corporation, including all activities to assist
 168 small businesses and minority business enterprises, as defined in
 169 section 4a-60g, a complete operating and financial statement and
 170 recommendations for legislation to promote the purposes of the
 171 corporation. The corporation shall furnish such additional information
 172 upon the written request of any such committee at such times as the
 173 committee may request."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-725
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	32-356
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	4-168a(c)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	32-47a