



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 223

February Session, 2008

Senate Bill No. 545

Senate, March 27, 2008

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. LEBEAU of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE TRADE COUNCIL.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut Legislative Trade Council. The council shall advise the
3 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
4 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
5 of matters relating to the Department of Economic and Community
6 Development concerning (1) more efficient use of existing
7 infrastructure to address the needs of importing and exporting
8 businesses in Connecticut, and (2) programs for promoting the growth
9 of such businesses, including, but not limited to, (A) foreign trade
10 zones and interstate foreign trade zones, (B) state, federal and
11 interstate enterprise zones, and (C) bonded warehouses. Not later than
12 January 15, 2009, and annually thereafter, the council shall submit a
13 report, pursuant to section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its findings
14 and activities to the Governor and said committee.

15 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

16 (1) Four members appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall
17 have expertise in the field of export financing;

18 (2) (A) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
19 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
20 relating to the Department of Economic and Community
21 Development, or (B) their designees, who may be members of the
22 General Assembly;

23 (3) Two members appointed by the president pro tempore of the
24 Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of export
25 financing;

26 (4) One member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

27 (5) One member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

28 (6) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of
29 Representatives, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of
30 export financing;

31 (7) One member appointed by the majority leader of the House of
32 Representatives; and

33 (8) One member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
34 Representatives, who shall have expertise in the field of export
35 financing.

36 (c) All members of the council, except the members described in
37 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
38 shall have expertise in the field of business or international trade. All
39 appointments to the council shall be made not later than thirty days
40 after October 1, 2008. The term of each appointed or designated
41 member of the council shall be coterminous with the term of the
42 appointing authority. The council shall elect a chairperson and a vice-
43 chairperson from among its members. Any person absent from (1)
44 three consecutive meetings of the council, or (2) fifty per cent of such
45 meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned

46 from the council, effective immediately. Any vacancy on the council
 47 shall be filled by the appointing authority. Members of the council
 48 shall serve without compensation but shall, within the limits of
 49 available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the
 50 performance of their duties. The council shall meet as often as deemed
 51 necessary by the chairperson or a majority of the council.

52 (d) The council may receive and use such funds as may be available
 53 from federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to
 54 carry out the purposes of this section.

55 (e) The council may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of the
 56 general statutes, employ any necessary staff within available
 57 appropriations.

58 (f) The four members of the council required to have expertise in the
 59 field of export financing shall constitute a trade advisory
 60 subcommittee of the council.

61 Sec. 2. (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Section 32-511 of the general statutes
 62 is repealed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	Repealer section

CE *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a Legislative Trade Council, which has the same purposes and powers as the Connecticut International Trade Council eliminated by the bill, and has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 545*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE TRADE COUNCIL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a 16-member Legislative Trade Council to advise the Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner and Commerce Committee on (1) how to efficiently use existing infrastructure to address the needs of the state's importing and exporting businesses and (2) programs to promote these businesses, including (a) foreign and interstate foreign trade zones; (b) state, federal, and interstate enterprise zones; and (c) bonded warehouses. The council must report by January 15, 2009, and annually thereafter, to the governor and Commerce Committee on its findings and activities.

The bill also eliminates the Connecticut International Trade Council, which has the same purposes and powers as the council the bill establishes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE TRADE COUNCIL***Membership***

The 16-member council includes the chairpersons and ranking members of the Commerce Committee or their designees, who may be legislators. The other members must have business or international trade expertise and are appointed as follows:

1. the governor appoints four members, two with export financing expertise;

2. the Senate president pro tempore appoints two members, one with export financing expertise;
3. the Senate majority and minority leaders each appoint one member;
4. the House speaker appoints two members, one with export financing expertise;
5. the House majority leader appoints one member; and
6. the House minority leader appoints one member with export financing expertise.

(Under current law for the Connecticut International Trade Council, the governor appoints six members and the Senate president and House speaker each appoint one.)

The appointing authorities must make their appointments by October 31, 2008 and fill any vacancy. The council elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson from its members.

Members' terms are coterminous with their appointing authority. They serve without compensation but must, within available funds, be reimbursed for necessary expenses they incur while working on the council. Any member absent from three consecutive council meetings or one-half of all meetings in a calendar year is deemed to have resigned from the council, effective immediately.

The bill authorizes the council to (1) receive and use funds from federal, state, or other sources, (2) enter into contracts to carry out its purposes, and (3) employ necessary staff in compliance with the State Personnel Act. The council must meet as often as the chairperson or council's majority deem necessary.

Trade Advisory Subcommittee

The bill requires four members of the council with export financing expertise to constitute a trade advisory subcommittee. Though there

are five appointees with this expertise, it does not specify which of the five serve on the subcommittee.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/11/2008)