



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 317

February Session, 2008

* SB00317APP__040108__ *

**AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR AN EMINENT FACULTY
RESEARCH TEAM AND NANOTECHNOLOGY.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 4-124hh of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2008*):

4 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall, within available
5 appropriations, establish a grant program to provide funding for the
6 promotion of collaborative research applications between industry and
7 institutions of higher education. Grants pursuant to this subsection
8 shall be awarded to institutions of higher education, technology-
9 focused organizations and business entities and may be used:

10 (1) To improve technology infrastructure by advancing the
11 development of shared use between institutions of higher education
12 and business entities of laboratories and equipment, including, but not
13 limited to, technology purchase, lease and installation, operating and
14 necessary support personnel and maintenance;

15 (2) As matching grants for joint projects between an industry, a
16 technology-focused organization or a university. The office shall
17 structure the matching grants to provide two rounds of funding
18 annually and shall do outreach to companies. The matching grant part

19 of the program shall include, but not be limited to, (A) one-to-one
20 matching grants not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars, with in-
21 kind match allowed for small and mid-sized companies, (B)
22 involvement of a competitive process with outside reviewers using as
23 key criteria (i) the demonstration of commercial relevance, and (ii) a
24 clear path to the marketplace for any innovations developed in the
25 course of the research, and (C) an aggressive marketing campaign
26 through business organizations to raise industry awareness of
27 resources from universities or technology-focused organizations; and

28 (3) To develop a Connecticut Center for Nanoscale Sciences and
29 Development to provide a shared-use laboratory in one or more sites
30 in the state to advance university research, industry application
31 development and education involving the synthesis, characterization
32 and fabrication of nanoscale materials, intermediates and devices and
33 related program activities. The Connecticut Center for Nanoscale
34 Sciences and Development shall provide: (A) Access to advanced
35 atomic scale characterization and imaging instrumentation; (B)
36 availability of pilot scale prototyping for nanotechnology components
37 and devices; (C) expert technical operations support, including
38 eminent faculty advancing the application of advanced
39 instrumentation; (D) proactive outreach programs providing a single
40 point of contact and providing technical assistance to the broad base of
41 institutions of higher education and industries to make use of the
42 advanced facilities; (E) significant levels of coinvestment from the
43 participating institutions within the state; and (F) availability of
44 shared-use provisions with industry and other education and research
45 institutions. The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall conduct a
46 feasibility study and business planning model leading to the
47 establishment of such center, including strategies for securing
48 investments from the federal government and private entities. On or
49 before January 1, 2007, said office shall submit the results of such
50 study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
51 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
52 matters relating to commerce and higher education and employment

53 advancement.

54 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) For the purposes described in
55 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
56 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
57 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
58 the aggregate sixteen million dollars.

59 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
60 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
61 Department of Economic and Community Development, in
62 consultation with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, for the
63 purpose of providing grants-in-aid to The University of Connecticut
64 and Yale University for the development of centers of nanoscale
65 sciences pursuant to section 4-124hh of the general statutes, as
66 amended by this act.

67 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
68 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
69 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
70 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
71 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
72 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
73 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
74 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
75 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
76 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
77 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
78 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
79 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
80 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
81 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
82 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
83 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
84 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
85 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and

