



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 317

February Session, 2008

* SB00317FIN__042408__ *

**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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*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*) Within available appropriations, The
55 University of Connecticut shall implement the recommendations of the
56 Office of Workforce Competitiveness' draft report entitled, "Investing
57 in Institutionally-Based, Shared-Use Nanotechnology Facilities for
58 Research, Education and Product Development," and shall recruit an
59 eminent faculty research team in nanotechnology pursuant to section
60 10a-104c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	4-124hh(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

FIN *Joint Favorable Subst.*