



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 545**

LCO No. 2502

\*02502\_\_\_\_\_CE\_\*

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:

(CE)

***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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a Legislative Trade Council to address the needs of importing and exporting businesses in Connecticut.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*