



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 332**

February Session, 2010

House Bill No. 5500

*House of Representatives, April 6, 2010*

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. BERGER of the 73rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS  
AND ESTABLISHING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-9n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and  
4 Community Development an Office of Small Business Affairs. Such  
5 office shall aid and encourage small business enterprises, particularly  
6 those owned and operated by minorities and other socially or  
7 economically disadvantaged individuals in Connecticut. As used in  
8 this section, minority means: (1) Black Americans, including all  
9 persons having origins in any of the Black African racial groups not of  
10 Hispanic origin; (2) Hispanic Americans, including all persons of  
11 Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other  
12 Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; (3) all persons having  
13 origins in the Iberian Peninsula, including Portugal, regardless of race;  
14 (4) women; (5) Asian Pacific Americans and Pacific islanders; or (6)

15 American Indians and persons having origins in any of the original  
16 peoples of North America and maintaining identifiable tribal  
17 affiliations through membership and participation or community  
18 identification.

19 (b) Said Office of Small Business Affairs shall: (1) Administer the  
20 small business development center program run by the Department of  
21 Economic and Community Development; (2) coordinate the flow of  
22 information within the technical and management assistance program  
23 run by the Department of Economic and Community Development; (3)  
24 encourage the Connecticut Development Authority to grant loans to  
25 small businesses, particularly those owned and operated by minorities  
26 and other socially or economically disadvantaged individuals; (4)  
27 coordinate and serve as a liaison between all federal, state, regional  
28 and municipal agencies and programs affecting small business affairs;  
29 [and] (5) administer any business management training program  
30 established under section 32-352 or section 32-355 as the Commissioner  
31 of Economic and Community Development may determine; (6)  
32 provide a single point of contact for small businesses seeking financial  
33 and technical assistance from the state and quasi-public agencies; (7)  
34 coordinate all state funded revolving loan funds used to assist small  
35 businesses; and (8) establish, in cooperation with the Commissioner of  
36 Economic and Community Development, and within available  
37 appropriations, an informational web page with a list and links to all  
38 small business resources available and post them in a conspicuous  
39 place on the department's web site. The office shall update this  
40 information on its web site on at least a quarterly basis.

41 (c) On or after February 1, 2011, the Office of Small Business Affairs  
42 shall compile a summary of all small business activities and programs  
43 available and incorporate such summary into the report required  
44 pursuant to section 32-1m.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) (a) The Department of Economic  
46 and Community Development shall appoint and convene a Small  
47 Business Advisory Board, which shall include, but not be limited to,

48 the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and  
 49 representatives of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, the  
 50 Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Incorporated, a  
 51 manufacturing association, a business association, a chamber of  
 52 commerce and an economic development entity. Such representatives  
 53 shall serve for a term of five years. The board shall meet on or before  
 54 December 31, 2010, and at least annually thereafter.

55 (b) The Small Business Advisory Board shall provide guidance to  
 56 the department with regard to resources available to small businesses.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-9n
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

**CE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which establishes a Small Business Advisory Board, expands the duties of the Department of Economic and Community Development's Small Business Affairs Office (SBAO) and requires the department to assist the SBAO establish a website, results in no fiscal impact.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5500*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND ESTABLISHING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to appoint and convene a Small Business Advisory Board to advise it about resources available to small businesses. At a minimum, the board must include seven members: the DECD commissioner and representatives of a manufacturing and business association, a chamber of commerce, an economic development entity, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, and Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. The board members each serve five-year terms. They must meet at least annually, beginning December 31, 2010.

The bill also expands the duties of DECD's Small Business Affairs Office, which currently include running a small business development center and administering any business management program the commissioner establishes. The bill additionally requires the office to:

1. provide a single contact point for small businesses seeking financial and technical assistance from state and quasi-public agencies;
2. coordinate all state small business revolving loan funds; and
3. establish an informational webpage listing all small business resources with appropriate links.

The office must establish the webpage with the commissioner's cooperation and within available appropriations. It must also post the

resources and links in a conspicuous place on DECD's website and update the information quarterly.

Lastly, beginning February 1, 2011, the bill requires the office to summarize all available small business programs and activities and include the summary in DECD's comprehensive annual report.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the provision establishing the advisory board, which is effective July 1, 2010.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 0    (03/18/2010)