



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

*TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE*  
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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 1002

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS AND COMMISSION  
ON CULTURE AND TOURISM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER CHANGES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATUTES

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Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 1002, *An Act Transferring the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and Commission on Culture and Tourism to the Department of Economic and Community Development and Other Changes to Economic Development Statutes*.

This bill is necessary to implement the Governor's Budget. It transfers all services and functions of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and the Commission on Culture and Tourism to the Department of Economic and Community Development. This proposed merger would streamline economic development initiatives and allow the culture, tourism and arts grants to be more responsive to state needs.

This bill also names the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development as the chairperson of both the Connecticut Development Authority and Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated. This structure will improve coordination and efficiency throughout all three groups. Under current statute, the Governor has the authority to name the chairperson of the Connecticut Housing Authority.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. I appreciate your consideration.