

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
March 1, 2011

Ronald Angelo, Acting Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development

**HB 6455- AN ACT REPEALING CERTAIN STATUTES RELATED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Department of Economic and Community Development offers the following comments in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 6455 *An Act Repealing Certain Statutes Related to the Department of Economic and Community Development*.

DECD is in support of this proposed amendment to eliminate redundant and duplicative mandates. This bill will allow for inactive boards, activities and systems that were never created, defunct or are similar to be removed from the statutes.

Highlights of the bill are as follows:

- 32-1f Duties of commissioner regarding Connecticut's future. Activities required by the statute are similar to those required under CGS sections 32-1m (DECD's Annual Report) and 32-1o (DECD's Economic Strategic Plan for Connecticut).
- 32-1g Connecticut competitiveness index. The "index" required by this section is redundant to 32-1o - which is the state's economic strategic plan. Additionally 32-1g requires that the Connecticut Economic Information System (CEIS) be used in the preparation of the "Index". The CEIS was never created and the Steering Committee has long been defunct. Further, it should be noted that section 32-6i of the general statutes it refers to CEIS. This too should be removed since CEIS does not exist and there was never any funding allocated to create such a system.
- Section 32-6i - The Connecticut Economic Information System (CEIS) was never created (and therefore does not exist). No funding exists to create such a system and due to advances in technology, it is no longer needed. DECD uses various other sources of data and systems to accomplish the same goals. The CEIS Steering Committee is defunct.
- Section 2c-2b(a)(29)- Repeals the sunset date for the CEIS. Since we are repealing the statute (above) we will no longer need the sunset date either.

- 32-4b State Economic Development Advisory Board. The State Economic Development Advisory Board has been defunct for over 10 years. Further the State's Economic Strategic Plan, pursuant to section 32-1o of the general statutes, addresses the planning and marketing aspects of the Advisory Board's charge.
- 32-4f Connecticut Economic Conference Board. This section refers to the Connecticut Economic Conference Board, which has not met since 2001 and as such is defunct. All of its appointments have lapsed. Further, the activities required by this statute are essentially the same as those required under CGS Sections 32-1m (DECD's Annual Report) and 32-1o (DECD's Economic Strategic Plan for Connecticut).
- Section 32-290 created the Financial Assistance for Entrepreneurial Development of Low Income Persons, a demonstration project that has ended. A successor program under 32-290a, the Entrepreneurial Training Program, has been in place for the past 10 years. Additionally, Under Section 32-291 of the C.G.S provided bond funds for the Financial Assistance for Entrepreneurial Development of Low Income Persons pilot program conducted under section 32-290 of the C.G.S. This 3-year pilot program ended in 1996/1997. The success of the pilot program led to the creation of the Entrepreneurial Training Program (32-290a).
- Section 32-1n Reports for economic and industry cluster initiatives. This section called for a one time report due 12/31/2006. The report was completed, and thus this statute is now obsolete and should be deleted.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the department's comments.