



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 139

February Session, 2014

House Bill No. 5270

House of Representatives, March 26, 2014

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. PERONE of the 137th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELEGATION AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-1c of the 2014 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

4 (a) In addition to any other powers, duties and responsibilities
5 provided for in this chapter, chapter 131, chapter 579 and section 4-8
6 and subsection (a) of section 10-409, the commissioner shall have the
7 following powers, duties and responsibilities: (1) To administer and
8 direct the operations of the Department of Economic and Community
9 Development; (2) to report annually to the Governor, as provided in
10 section 4-60; (3) to conduct and administer the research and planning
11 functions necessary to carry out the purposes of said chapters and
12 sections; (4) to encourage and promote the development of industry
13 and business in the state and to investigate, study and undertake ways
14 and means of promoting and encouraging the prosperous

15 development and protection of the legitimate interest and welfare of
16 Connecticut business, industry and commerce, within and outside the
17 state; (5) to serve, ex officio as a director on the board of Connecticut
18 Innovations, Incorporated; (6) to serve as a member of the Committee
19 of Concern for Connecticut Jobs; (7) to promote and encourage the
20 location and development of new business in the state as well as the
21 maintenance and expansion of existing business and for that purpose
22 to cooperate with state and local agencies and individuals both within
23 and outside the state; (8) to plan and conduct a program of information
24 and publicity designed to attract tourists, visitors and other interested
25 persons from outside the state to this state and also to encourage and
26 coordinate the efforts of other public and private organizations or
27 groups of citizens to publicize the facilities and attractions of the state
28 for the same purposes; (9) to advise and cooperate with municipalities,
29 persons and local planning agencies within the state for the purpose of
30 promoting coordination between the state and such municipalities as
31 to plans and development; (10) by reallocating funding from other
32 agency accounts or programs, to assign adequate and available staff to
33 provide technical assistance to businesses in the state in exporting,
34 manufacturing and cluster-based initiatives and to provide guidance
35 and advice on regulatory matters; (11) to aid minority businesses in
36 their development; (12) to appoint such assistants, experts, technicians
37 and clerical staff, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, as are
38 necessary to carry out the purposes of said chapters and sections; (13)
39 to employ other consultants and assistants on a contract or other basis
40 for rendering financial, technical or other assistance and advice; (14) to
41 acquire or lease facilities located outside the state subject to the
42 provisions of section 4b-23; (15) to advise and inform municipal
43 officials concerning economic development and collect and
44 disseminate information pertaining thereto, including information
45 about federal, state and private assistance programs and services
46 pertaining thereto; (16) to inquire into the utilization of state
47 government resources and coordinate federal and state activities for
48 assistance in and solution of problems of economic development and
49 to inform and advise the Governor about and propose legislation

50 concerning such problems; (17) to conduct, encourage and maintain
51 research and studies relating to industrial and commercial
52 development; (18) to prepare and review model ordinances and
53 charters relating to these areas; (19) to maintain an inventory of data
54 and information and act as a clearinghouse and referral agency for
55 information on state and federal programs and services relative to the
56 purpose set forth herein. The inventory shall include information on all
57 federal programs of financial assistance for defense conversion projects
58 and other projects consistent with a defense conversion strategy and
59 shall identify businesses which would be eligible for such assistance
60 and provide notification to such business of such programs; (20) to
61 conduct, encourage and maintain research and studies and advise
62 municipal officials about forms of cooperation between public and
63 private agencies designed to advance economic development; (21) to
64 promote and assist the formation of municipal and other agencies
65 appropriate to the purposes of this chapter; (22) to require notice of the
66 submission of all applications by municipalities and any agency
67 thereof for federal and state financial assistance for economic
68 development programs as relate to the purposes of this chapter; (23)
69 with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, to
70 reimburse any employee of the department, including the
71 commissioner, for reasonable business expenses, including but not
72 limited to, mileage, travel, lodging, and entertainment of business
73 prospects and other persons to the extent necessary or advisable to
74 carry out the purposes of subdivisions (4), (7), (8) and (11) of this
75 subsection and other provisions of this chapter; (24) to assist in
76 resolving solid waste management issues; (25) (A) to serve as an
77 information clearinghouse for various public and private programs
78 available to assist businesses, (B) to identify specific micro businesses,
79 as defined in section 32-344, whose growth and success could benefit
80 from state or private assistance and contact such small businesses in
81 order to (i) identify their needs, (ii) provide information about public
82 and private programs for meeting such needs, including, but not
83 limited to, technical assistance, job training and financial assistance,
84 and (iii) arrange for the provision of such assistance to such businesses;

85 (26) to enhance and promote the digital media and motion picture
86 industries in the state; (27) by reallocating funding from other agency
87 accounts or programs, to develop a marketing campaign that promotes
88 Connecticut as a place of innovation; and (28) by reallocating funding
89 from other agency accounts or programs, to execute the steps
90 necessary to implement the knowledge corridor agreement with
91 Massachusetts to promote the biomedical device industry.

92 (b) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
93 may make available technical and financial assistance and advisory
94 services to any appropriate agency, authority or commission for
95 planning and other functions pertinent to economic development
96 provided any financial assistance to a regional planning agency or a
97 regional council of elected officials shall have the prior approval of the
98 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or his designee.
99 Financial assistance shall be rendered upon such contractual
100 arrangements as may be agreed upon by the commissioner and any
101 such agency, authority or commission in accordance with their
102 respective needs, and the commissioner may determine the
103 qualifications of personnel or consultants to be engaged for such
104 assistance.

105 (c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
106 shall do all things necessary to apply for, qualify for and accept any
107 federal funds made available or allotted under any federal act for
108 planning or any other projects, programs or activities which may be
109 established by federal law, for any of the purposes, or activities related
110 thereto, of the Department of Economic and Community Development
111 and said Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
112 shall administer any such funds allotted to the department in
113 accordance with federal law. The commissioner may enter into
114 contracts with the federal government concerning the use and
115 repayment of such funds under any such federal act, the prosecution
116 of the work under any such contract and the establishment of any
117 disbursement from a separate account in which federal and state funds
118 estimated to be required for plan preparation or other eligible activities

119 under such federal act shall be kept. Said account shall not be a part of
 120 the General Fund of the state or any subdivision of the state. The
 121 commissioner shall report on activities to apply for, qualify for and
 122 accept funds under this subsection in its annual report submitted
 123 pursuant to section 32-1m.

124 (d) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
 125 may designate any deputy commissioner or employee of the
 126 department to exercise the authority of the commissioner for the
 127 purpose of administering any statutory or regulatory responsibility.

128 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The powers and duties enumerated in this section shall be
 129 in addition to and shall not limit any other powers or duties of the
 130 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development contained
 131 in any other law.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	32-1c

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.

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

The bill has no fiscal impact by adding the delegation authority of the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to economic development statutes. The commissioner currently has such authority under the housing statutes.

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

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5270

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELEGATION AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes a technical change by adding the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner's existing power to delegate her statutory and regulatory responsibilities to any DECD deputy commissioner or employee, currently codified elsewhere in the statutes (CGS § 8-37x), to the section that lists the commissioner's numerous specific powers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)