



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 236**

February Session, 2014

Senate Bill No. 380

*Senate, April 1, 2014*

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WHO PRODUCE COMMERCIAL FOOD ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL KITCHENS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-7f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
4 shall establish an economic development grants program to provide  
5 grants for the following programs and purposes:

6 (1) To develop a small business incubator program to entities  
7 operating incubator facilities, as defined in section 32-34;

8 (2) To promote, retain and expand hydrogen and fuel cell industries  
9 in Connecticut;

10 (3) To promote supply chain integration and encourage the

- 11 adoption of digital manufacturing and information technologies;
- 12 (4) To provide training for small and medium-sized businesses in
- 13 high-performance work practices;
- 14 (5) To support the development of marine science, maritime and
- 15 homeland security defense industries;
- 16 (6) To promote research innovation and nanotechnology; [and]
- 17 (7) To provide small business owners who produce commercial
- 18 food with access to commercial kitchens; and
- 19 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) To provide technical assistance to small business owners.

20 (b) The Department of Economic and Community Development

21 may enter into an agreement, pursuant to chapter 55a, with a person,

22 firm, corporation or other entity to operate the grants program

23 ~~[developed]~~ established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

24 (c) The commissioner shall prescribe the manner in which an entity

25 shall submit an application for a grant awarded as part of the grants

26 program ~~[developed]~~ established pursuant to this section, provided

27 such application procedure includes (1) a request for proposal, or (2) a

28 competitive award process.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	32-7f

**GL**            *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 requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to provide economic development grants to small business owners who produce commercial food with access to commercial kitchens.

There is no cost to DECD to administer such grants. However, the bill does not provide funding to DECD to finance the grants. The current FY 15 budget also does not include funding for grants for this purpose. It is therefore unclear how DECD will fund any grant that may be approved as a result of the bill.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 380*****AN ACT CONCERNING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WHO PRODUCE COMMERCIAL FOOD ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL KITCHENS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to provide grants, as part of an existing economic development grant program, to small business owners who produce commercial food with access to commercial kitchens.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

**BACKGROUND*****Economic Development Grant Program***

By law, the commissioner already provides economic grants for, among other things, (1) developing small business incubator program; (2) promoting research innovation and nanotechnology; and (3) promoting, retaining, and expanding hydrogen and fuel cell industries within the state.

DECD may enter into an agreement with any person, firm, corporation, or other entity to operate the grants program. The commissioner must prescribe application procedures that must include a (1) request for proposal and (2) competitive award process.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2014)

