



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

**Raised Bill No. 5270**

LCO No. 1204



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:  
(CE)

***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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	32-1c

**CE**      *Joint Favorable*