



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5515

LCO No. 2064



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT ALLOWING THE DESIGNATION OF THE TOWN OF THOMASTON AS AN ENTERPRISE ZONE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 32-70 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2014*):

4 (c) (1) On or before September 30, 1993, the Commissioner of
5 Economic and Community Development shall approve the
6 designation of ten areas as enterprise zones, not more than four of
7 which shall be in municipalities with a population greater than eighty
8 thousand and not more than six of which shall be in municipalities
9 with a population of less than eighty thousand.

10 (2) (A) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner shall approve
11 the designation of two areas as enterprise zones. Each such area shall
12 be in a municipality with a population of less than eighty thousand, in
13 which there are one or more base or plant closures. Such municipalities
14 shall be in different counties. If the commissioner approves the

15 designation of an area of a municipality as an enterprise zone because
16 of a plant closure in the municipality and there is a closure of another
17 plant in any other municipality in the state by the same business, the
18 commissioner shall also designate an area in such other municipality
19 as an enterprise zone. If any such designated area includes a portion of
20 a census tract in which any such base or plant is located, the census
21 tracts in such area shall not be required to meet the eligibility criteria
22 set forth under subsection (a) of this section for enterprise zone
23 designation. If any such area is located elsewhere in the municipality,
24 the census tracts in such area shall meet such eligibility criteria. As
25 used in this subparagraph, (i) "base" means any United States or state
26 of Connecticut military base or facility located in whole or in part
27 within the state; (ii) "plant" means any manufacturing or economic
28 base business, as defined in subsection (l) of section 32-222; and (iii)
29 "closure" means any reduction or transfer in military personnel or
30 civilian employment at one or more bases or plants in a municipality,
31 which occurred between July 1, 1989, and July 1, 1993, or is scheduled
32 to occur between July 1, 1993, and July 1, 1996, and exceeds two
33 thousand persons. Such employment figures shall be certified by the
34 Labor Department. (B) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner
35 shall approve the designation of three other areas as enterprise zones,
36 one of which shall be in a municipality with a population greater than
37 eighty thousand and two of which shall be in municipalities with a
38 population of less than eighty thousand. The census tracts in such
39 areas shall meet the eligibility criteria set forth under subsection (a) of
40 this section for enterprise zone designation. The commissioner shall
41 approve the designation of enterprise zones under this subparagraph
42 for those municipalities which he or she determines to have
43 experienced the largest increases in poverty from October 1, 1989, to
44 October 1, 1993, inclusive, based on a weighted average of the
45 unemployment rate, caseload under the temporary family assistance
46 program and per capita income of less than ninety per cent of the state
47 average between 1985 and 1989. In making his determination, the
48 commissioner may also consider the vacancy rates for commercial and

49 industrial facilities in a municipality and a municipality's program for
50 the implementation of an effective enterprise zone program. To the
51 extent appropriate, the commissioner shall use the Regional Economic
52 Models, Inc. (REMI) system in making the calculations for such
53 determination. (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of
54 this section, municipalities that were not distressed municipalities
55 under the provisions of subsection (b) of section 32-9p on February 1,
56 1986, shall be eligible to designate areas as enterprise zones under
57 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision.

58 (3) Notwithstanding the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection (a)
59 of this section, (A) a municipality with a population of not less than
60 seven thousand eight hundred and not more than seven thousand nine
61 hundred and having a total square area of not more than 12.2 miles
62 shall be eligible to designate an area as an enterprise zone, and (B) on
63 or before January 1, 2015, the commissioner shall approve such
64 designation.

65 [(3)] (4) The commissioner shall not approve the designation of
66 more than one enterprise zone in any municipality. The commissioner
67 shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 concerning such
68 additional qualifications for an area to become an enterprise zone as he
69 or she deems necessary. The commissioner may remove the
70 designation of any area he or she has approved as an enterprise zone if
71 such area no longer meets the criteria for designation as such an area
72 set forth in this section or in regulations adopted pursuant to this
73 section, provided no such designation shall be removed less than ten
74 years from the original date of approval of such zone. The
75 commissioner may designate any additional area as an enterprise zone
76 if that area is designated as an enterprise zone, empowerment zone or
77 enterprise community pursuant to any federal legislation.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	July 1, 2014	32-70(c)
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Statement of Purpose:

To allow the designation of an area within the town of Thomaston as an enterprise zone.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]