



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 302

LCO No. 1808



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) As used in sections 1 to 3,
2 inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and
4 Community Development, or the commissioner's designee;

5 (2) "Department" means the Department of Economic and
6 Community Development;

7 (3) "Entrepreneur in residence" means any individual appointed by
8 the commissioner pursuant to section 2 of this act; and

9 (4) "State agency" means any state department, office or other
10 executive branch agency of the state.

11 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) The Commissioner of
12 Economic and Community Development shall develop and administer

13 an entrepreneur in residence pilot program, under which the
14 commissioner shall appoint individuals as entrepreneurs in residence
15 to serve in state agencies in order to (1) provide for outreach by the
16 state to the private sector, (2) strengthen coordination between the
17 state and the private sector on issues relevant to entrepreneurs and
18 small businesses, and (3) make state programs simpler, easier to access,
19 more efficient and more responsive to the needs of entrepreneurs and
20 small businesses. The pilot program shall commence on January 1,
21 2015, and terminate on December 31, 2017.

22 (b) The commissioner shall appoint not more than ten entrepreneurs
23 in residence during any year. Each entrepreneur in residence shall (1)
24 have a favorable reputation for skill, knowledge and experience in his
25 or her field, (2) have demonstrated success in working with
26 entrepreneurs and small businesses, or (3) have successfully
27 developed, invented or created a product and brought such product to
28 the marketplace. The commissioner shall make a good faith effort to
29 ensure that, to the extent possible, the individuals appointed as
30 entrepreneurs in residence closely reflect the gender and racial
31 diversity of the state. No individual appointed as an entrepreneur in
32 residence shall receive compensation for such individual's services,
33 except, at the discretion of the commissioner of the agency to which
34 such individual is appointed, each entrepreneur in residence may be
35 entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred
36 during the performance of such individual's official duties. An
37 individual may serve as an entrepreneur in residence for not more
38 than two years. No person appointed as an entrepreneur in residence
39 shall be deemed a state employee under title 5 of the general statutes.

40 (c) In appointing entrepreneurs in residence, the commissioner shall
41 (1) give priority to placing entrepreneurs in residence at separate state
42 agencies, and (2) appoint not more than two entrepreneurs in
43 residence to a single state agency in the same year.

44 (d) The commissioner may convene a working group comprising

45 the appointed entrepreneurs in residence to (1) discuss best practices,
46 experiences, obstacles and opportunities encountered at the
47 Department of Economic and Community Development and
48 respective state agencies to which such entrepreneurs in residence are
49 appointed, and (2) make recommendations concerning the
50 development, implementation and delivery of state agency services to
51 entrepreneurs and small businesses.

52 (e) On or before January 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Economic and
53 Community Development shall report, in accordance with the
54 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
55 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
56 relating to commerce on the program established pursuant to this
57 section. Such report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A list of the
58 state agencies to which entrepreneurs in residence were appointed, (2)
59 any recommendations made by entrepreneurs in residence pursuant to
60 section 3 of this act and adopted by the relevant state agency, (3) the
61 recommendations of any working group established pursuant to
62 subsection (d) of this section, (4) any obstacles encountered by the
63 commissioner and individual entrepreneurs in residence in
64 implementing and carrying out the duties of the program, and (5) any
65 recommendations for legislative modifications to the program.

66 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) The duties of an
67 entrepreneur in residence shall include the following:

68 (1) Assist the department and other state agencies in improving
69 outreach to small businesses and entrepreneurs;

70 (2) Provide recommendations to the department and the head of the
71 state agency to which such entrepreneur in residence is appointed
72 regarding inefficient or duplicative programs, if any, at such agency;

73 (3) Provide recommendations to the department and the head of the
74 state agency to which such entrepreneur in residence is appointed
75 regarding methods to improve program efficiency at such agency or

76 new initiatives, if any, that may be instituted at such agency;

77 (4) Facilitate meetings and forums to educate entrepreneurs and
78 small businesses regarding programs or initiatives of the department
79 and the state agency to which such entrepreneur in residence is
80 appointed;

81 (5) Facilitate in-service sessions with employees of the department
82 and the state agency to which such entrepreneur in residence is
83 appointed regarding issues of concern to entrepreneurs and small
84 businesses; and

85 (6) Provide technical assistance or mentorship to entrepreneurs and
86 small businesses in accessing programs at the department and the state
87 agency to which such entrepreneur in residence is appointed.

88 (b) An entrepreneur in residence shall report directly to the head of
89 the state agency to which such entrepreneur in residence is appointed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a pilot entrepreneur in residence program under which the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development would place successful entrepreneurs in state agencies to make agency services and operations simpler, more efficient, and more responsive to the needs of entrepreneurs and businesses.

[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.]