



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 1137

LCO No. 6288



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:
(FIN)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut Competitiveness Council, which shall be part of the
3 Legislative Department.
- 4 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:
- 5 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 6 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 7 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
8 Representatives;
- 9 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 10 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives;

12 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

13 (7) Two persons appointed by the Governor.

14 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (1), (2),
15 (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of
16 the General Assembly.

17 (d) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later
18 than October 1, 2015. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
19 authority.

20 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
21 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council
22 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
23 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
24 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

25 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
26 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance,
27 revenue and bonding shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

28 (g) Appointed members of the council shall serve for four-year
29 terms which shall commence October 1, 2015, except that members
30 first appointed shall have the following terms: Members initially
31 appointed by the Governor and members appointed by the majority
32 leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the
33 House of Representatives shall serve a term of two years, and
34 members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
35 the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the
36 Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall initially serve a term
37 of four years. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy by
38 appointment for the unexpired portion of the term vacated.

39 (h) A majority of the council shall constitute a quorum for the
40 transaction of any business.

41 (i) The members of the council shall serve without compensation,
42 except for necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

43 (j) The council shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
44 Encourage and assist private sector business growth in this state and
45 evaluate and promote economic competitiveness as compared to other
46 jurisdictions; (2) not later than January 31, 2017, and annually
47 thereafter, develop a Connecticut Competitiveness Scorecard to
48 provide a comprehensive statistical assessment of Connecticut's
49 economic competitiveness performance; (3) outline the primary
50 challenges to Connecticut's economic competitiveness and policy
51 responses required to meet those challenges; (4) advise and assist the
52 executive and legislative departments and the private sector on
53 matters relating to economic competitiveness; (5) obtain from any
54 executive department, board, commission or other agency of the state
55 such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the
56 purposes of this section; (6) accept any gift, donation or bequest for the
57 purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (7)
58 perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry
59 out the duties described in this section.

60 (k) The council shall meet at least quarterly.

61 (l) Not later than January 31, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
62 council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
63 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the
64 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
65 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
66 of matters relating to labor, commerce and finance, revenue and
67 bonding on the competitiveness of the state's industry and economy
68 which shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the Connecticut
69 Competitiveness Scorecard described in subdivision (2) of subsection
70 (j) of this section, (2) the outline of primary challenges to Connecticut's
71 economic competitiveness and policy responses required to meet those
72 challenges described in subdivision (3) of subsection (j) of this section,

73 and (3) recommendations for policy changes and amendments to the
74 general statutes necessary to promote economic competitiveness.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Connecticut Competitiveness Council to examine and encourage private sector business growth in this state.

[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.]