



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5573**

February Session, 2016

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB05573CE\_\_\_\_\_031816\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING AN EXTENSION OF THE FIRST FIVE PLUS PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-4l of the 2016 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) (1) The Department of Economic and Community Development  
5 shall establish a first five plus program to encourage business  
6 expansion and job creation. As part of said program, the department  
7 may provide substantial financial assistance to up to [fifteen] twenty  
8 eligible business development projects by June 30, [2016] 2019.

9 (2) A business development project eligible for financial assistance  
10 under the first five plus program shall commit, in the manner  
11 prescribed by the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
12 Development, to (A) create not less than two hundred new jobs within  
13 twenty-four months from the date such application is approved; or (B)  
14 invest not less than twenty-five million dollars and create not less than  
15 two hundred new jobs not later than five years after the date such  
16 application is approved.

17 (3) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
18 may give preference to a business development project that (A)

19 involves the relocation of an out-of-state or international manufacturer  
20 or corporate headquarters, (B) involves the relocation of jobs that are  
21 outside the United States to the state, [or] (C) is a redevelopment  
22 project [if] that the commissioner believes [such redevelopment  
23 project] will create jobs sooner than the schedule set forth in  
24 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (D) is located in a distressed  
25 municipality, as defined in section 32-9p, or (E) involves a targeted  
26 industry referenced in the economic development strategic plan for the  
27 state prepared pursuant to section 32-1o.

28 (4) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
29 may, in awarding financial assistance to an eligible business  
30 development project, work with Connecticut Innovations,  
31 Incorporated, to secure financing for such project.

32 (5) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
33 shall certify to the Governor for his or her approval that a business  
34 development project applicant has satisfied all the eligibility criteria in  
35 the program. Financial assistance awarded through the first five plus  
36 program shall be with the written consent of the Governor.

37 (b) Financial assistance for the first five plus program for eligible  
38 business development projects shall be exempt from the provisions of  
39 subsection (c) of section 32-223, section 32-462, subsection (q) of section  
40 32-9t and, at the commissioner's discretion, section 12-211a for the  
41 fiscal years ending June 30, 2012, June 30, 2013, June 30, 2014, June 30,  
42 2015, June 30, 2016, [and] June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019,  
43 and June 30, 2020.

44 (c) The commissioner may take such action as the commissioner  
45 deems necessary or appropriate to enforce such commitment,  
46 including, but not limited to, establishing terms and conditions for the  
47 repayment of any financial assistance awarded pursuant to the  
48 provisions of this section.

49 (d) On or before September 1, 2013, January 1, 2014, September 1,

50 2014, January 1, 2015, September 1, 2015, January 1, 2016, [and]  
 51 September 1, 2016, January 1, 2017, September 1, 2017, January 1,  
 52 2018, September 1, 2018, January 1, 2019, and September 1, 2019, the  
 53 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall report  
 54 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a to the joint standing  
 55 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 56 relating to commerce and finance, revenue and bonding on the projects  
 57 funded through the first five plus program, the number of jobs created  
 58 and the impact on the economy of this state.

59 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
 60 on or after July 1, 2016, the department shall not provide financial  
 61 assistance to any additional business development project under this  
 62 section until: (1) The commissioner submits a report, in accordance  
 63 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of  
 64 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
 65 commerce and finance that includes (A) the net rate of return to the  
 66 state for the entire portfolio of the first five plus program, taking into  
 67 account all loans that have been forgiven and all tax credits that have  
 68 been allowed in accordance with this section, and (B) based on such  
 69 net rate of return, a recommendation as to whether the first five plus  
 70 program should continue; and (2) said joint standing committees vote,  
 71 in concurrence, to approve such recommendation.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |              |
| Section 1   | <i>July 1, 2016</i> | <i>32-4l</i> |

**CE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*