



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 304

LCO No. 1650



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD FOR LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONNECTICUT INNOVATIONS, INCORPORATED.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (q) of section 32-9t of the 2016 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (q) (1) Any tax credits approved under this section that would
5 constitute in excess of [twenty] forty million dollars in total for a single
6 investment shall be submitted by the Commissioner of Economic and
7 Community Development to the joint standing committee of the
8 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance,
9 revenue and bonding prior to the issuance of a certificate of eligibility
10 for such investment. Said committee shall have thirty days from the
11 date such project is submitted to convene a meeting to recommend
12 approval or disapproval of such investment. If such submittal is
13 withdrawn, altered, amended or otherwise changed, and resubmitted,

14 said committee shall have thirty days from the date of such resubmittal
15 to convene a meeting to recommend approval or disapproval of such
16 investment. If said committee does not act on a submittal or
17 resubmittal, as the case may be, within that time, the investment shall
18 be deemed to be approved by said committee.

19 (2) While the General Assembly is in session, the House of
20 Representatives or the Senate, or both, may meet not later than thirty
21 days following the date said committee makes a recommendation
22 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. If such submission is not
23 disapproved by the House of Representatives or the Senate, or both,
24 within such time, the commissioner may issue such certificate.

25 (3) While the General Assembly is not in regular session, the House
26 of Representatives or the Senate, or both, may meet not later than
27 thirty days following the date said committee makes a
28 recommendation pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. If such
29 submission is not disapproved by the House of Representatives, the
30 Senate, or both, within such time, the commissioner may issue such
31 certificate.

32 Sec. 2. Section 32-462 of the general statutes is repealed and the
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

34 (a) As used in this section:

35 (1) "Agency" means the Department of Economic and Community
36 Development or Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated.

37 (2) "Financial assistance" means grants, loans, loan guarantees,
38 contracts of insurance, investments, or combinations thereof, which are
39 provided from the proceeds of bonds, notes or other obligations of the
40 state or an agency [which] that constitute a debt or liability of the state
41 or [which] that are secured by a special capital reserve fund payable
42 from amounts appropriated or deemed appropriated from the General
43 Fund.

44 (3) "Applicant" means any eligible applicant seeking financial
45 assistance from an agency for a business project. The term "applicant"
46 shall not include any political subdivision of the state.

47 (4) "Business project" means a business proposal undertaken by one
48 or more applicants, but does not include housing unless undertaken in
49 combination with another unrelated type of business.

50 (5) "Biotechnology business project" means any commercial project
51 to be used or occupied by any person to conduct laboratory activity
52 relating to, or the research, development or manufacture of,
53 biologically active molecules or devices that apply to, affect or analyze
54 biological processes.

55 (b) (1) No agency or agencies may award more than a total of [ten]
56 twenty million dollars of financial assistance during any two-year
57 period to an applicant or for a business project unless such financial
58 assistance is specifically authorized by an act of the General Assembly.
59 [which has been enacted before, on or after July 1, 1994.] (2) The
60 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any
61 awards funded or to be funded by bonds authorized to be issued by
62 the State Bond Commission before July 1, 1994.

63 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
64 no agency or agencies may award more than [twenty] forty million
65 dollars of financial assistance for a biotechnology business project
66 during any two-year period unless such financial assistance is
67 specifically authorized by an act of the General Assembly. [which has
68 been enacted before, on or after July 1, 2001.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	32-9t(q)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2016	32-462

Statement of Purpose:

To raise the dollar thresholds for legislative approval of state financial assistance awarded by the Department of Economic and Community Development and Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated.

[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.]