



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

**Raised Bill No. 307**

LCO No. 2020



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:  
(CE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING KNOWLEDGE CENTER ENTERPRISE ZONES.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2016*) (a) Notwithstanding the  
2 provisions of section 32-70 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of  
3 Economic and Community Development may establish a knowledge  
4 center enterprise zone surrounding any college, university or other  
5 institution of higher learning in the state upon receipt from such  
6 college, university or institution of a proposal recommending the  
7 establishment of such a zone, provided: (1) The commissioner  
8 determines that the economic development benefits of establishing  
9 such a knowledge center enterprise zone outweigh the anticipated  
10 costs to the state and the affected municipalities; and (2) such proposal  
11 complies with the state plan of conservation and development adopted  
12 pursuant to chapter 297 of the general statutes. The commissioner may  
13 establish not more than ten knowledge center enterprise zones.

14 (b) Any proposal submitted by a college, university or other  
15 institution of higher learning pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
16 shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The geographic scope of the

17 proposed knowledge center enterprise zone, including designation of  
18 all census blocks that such institution proposes incorporating into such  
19 zone, provided no zone shall extend beyond a two-mile radius of such  
20 college, university or institution; (2) the nature of business and  
21 industry that will be developed and how such business and industry  
22 align with the mission of such college, university or institution; (3)  
23 how such business and industry will collaborate with such college,  
24 university or institution to create jobs and the anticipated number of  
25 jobs to be created; (4) such college, university or institution's  
26 experience with business collaboration or plan for such collaboration;  
27 (5) any other economic and community developments anticipated  
28 from the establishment of such zone; and (6) the anticipated lost  
29 revenue to the state and municipalities as a result of establishing such  
30 zone.

31 (c) The commissioner may modify the geographic scope of any  
32 proposed knowledge center enterprise zone to improve the balance  
33 between the anticipated economic benefit and the cost to the state and  
34 affected municipalities.

35 (d) Businesses located within a knowledge center enterprise zone  
36 shall be entitled to the same benefits, subject to the same conditions,  
37 under the general statutes for which businesses located in an  
38 enterprise zone qualify.

39 (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the  
40 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to implement the  
41 provisions of this section. Such regulations shall include, but not be  
42 limited to: (1) A review and approval process for proposals submitted  
43 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; (2) goals and performance  
44 standards for knowledge center enterprise zones; and (3) procedures to  
45 assess the performance of knowledge center enterprise zones.

46 (f) Not less than ten years from the original date of approval of a  
47 knowledge center enterprise zone, the commissioner shall assess the  
48 performance of such zone. The commissioner may remove the

