



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 1058

LCO No. 6244



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:
(FIN)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGING ECONOMIC TRENDS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The CTNext board of directors
2 established pursuant to section 32-39f of the general statutes shall issue
3 a request for proposals to enter into an agreement with a private
4 research organization to advise, guide and assist the state in short-term
5 and long-term strategic economic planning by (1) identifying emerging
6 industries in which the state should make strategic investments,
7 considering the state's existing and potential strengths in the relevant
8 workforce, education capacity, research capacity and the mix of
9 existing businesses and industries in the state, (2) suggesting changes
10 in state policy to bolster the state's workforce, education capacity and
11 research capacity in support of the emerging industries identified
12 under subdivision (1) of this subsection and to better meet the needs of
13 the state's established industries, (3) periodically and regularly
14 assessing the health of and potential strategic threats to the state's
15 established industries, (4) accelerating the pace of innovation among

16 new and existing businesses in the state, (5) forecasting short-term and
17 long-term business trends that may impact existing businesses and
18 new businesses in the state, (6) developing opportunities and business
19 strategies to attract, retain and develop emerging and mature
20 industries and businesses to and in the state, and (7) (A) periodically
21 and regularly assessing economic conditions in the state to identify
22 strategic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with respect
23 to subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection, and (B) develop
24 and promote concrete policy recommendations informed by such
25 assessment.

26 (b) To accomplish the objectives set forth in subsection (a) of this
27 section, the research organization selected shall:

28 (1) Track and analyze developments in the state's major industry
29 sectors, including, but not limited to: Health care and bioscience;
30 financial services; insurance; venture capital; advanced manufacturing;
31 aerospace; digital media and information technology; software
32 development; data analytics; green technology; and tourism;

33 (2) Have expertise in or consult with experts in each of the following
34 academic disciplines: Connecticut economic history and forecasting;
35 technology and advancements in technology; strategic business
36 planning and organizational development; investment and finance; the
37 research and development process; and technology commercialization;

38 (3) Consult with representatives of employee organizations, as
39 defined in section 5-270 of the general statutes, and private employee
40 organizations to inform the research organization of developments in
41 the workforce that shall be considered in the assessment undertaken
42 by the research organization;

43 (4) Consult with representatives from public institutions of higher
44 education in the state and from independent institutions of higher
45 education in the state to inform the research organization of
46 developments in higher education that shall be considered in the

47 assessment undertaken by the research organization. The research
48 organization shall examine: The relationship between institutions of
49 higher education in the state and the state's major industry sectors; the
50 extent of regular communications between institutions of higher
51 education in the state and businesses in the state's major industry
52 sectors; the alignment of curricula, degree programs and graduation
53 rates in all fields of study offered by institutions of higher education in
54 the state with the workforce and skill needs of the state's major
55 industry sectors; and the responsiveness of institutions of higher
56 education in the state to changing needs of the state's major industry
57 sectors; and

58 (5) Develop contacts and working relationships with representatives
59 of the businesses, organizations and institutions set forth in
60 subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, to be updated
61 continually and informed about emerging trends within their
62 respective fields.

63 (c) (1) The research organization shall present, in accordance with
64 the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, an analysis of such
65 assessments and action-oriented recommendations for legislative and
66 programmatic changes to the CTNext board of directors and the joint
67 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
68 matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and commerce. The
69 CTNext board of directors shall specify annually the scope of work for
70 such research organization. The CTNext board of directors may change
71 or adjust the scope of work if such directors deem such change or
72 adjustment necessary or prudent in light of economic developments or
73 trends, provided any such change or adjustment does not result in
74 additional costs to the state.

75 (2) The research organization shall provide to the CTNext board of
76 directors on a quarterly basis (A) an update on the status and progress
77 of any prior legislative or programmatic changes recommended by
78 such organization, including, but not limited to, a report on any such

79 changes implemented by a state agency and whether such changes are
80 accomplishing or are predicted to accomplish the purposes of such
81 changes, and (B) any economic or business issues or problems forecast
82 to adversely impact the state's economy or a major industry sector in
83 the state. The research organization shall include in its fourth quarter
84 report legislative and programmatic changes the organization
85 recommends and specific action steps to accomplish the state's goals as
86 set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The research organization
87 shall provide to the CTNext board of directors annually a
88 comprehensive report that includes the information required under
89 this section.

90 (3) Prior to the hearing required under subdivision (4) of this
91 subsection, a lead representative of the research organization shall
92 provide to the chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the
93 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance,
94 revenue and bonding and commerce a list of the department heads, as
95 defined in section 4-5 of the general statutes, chief executive officers,
96 presidents, deans or other comparable officials, (A) whose state
97 agencies or state institutions are included, with respect to current or
98 proposed programs or initiatives, in the research organization's
99 comprehensive annual report required under subdivision (2) of this
100 subsection, and (B) whose testimony at such hearing the lead
101 representative believes would be helpful. The chairpersons of said
102 committees may require additional department heads, chief executive
103 officers, presidents, deans or other comparable officials of state
104 agencies or state institutions to appear at such hearing to offer
105 testimony.

106 (4) (A) The lead representative of the research organization who
107 provided the list under subdivision (3) of this subsection and the
108 chairperson of the CTNext board of directors shall present annually
109 the comprehensive report under subdivision (2) of this subsection at a
110 hearing held jointly by the joint standing committees of the General
111 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue

112 and bonding and commerce. At such hearing, members of said
113 committees may question any individual appearing before them, and
114 the lead representative of the research organization and the
115 chairperson of the CTNext board of directors may question any of the
116 department heads, chief executive officers, presidents, deans or
117 comparable officials presenting testimony pursuant to subdivision (3)
118 of this subsection.

119 (B) Said committees shall include in proposed legislation in the
120 regular session of the General Assembly immediately following such
121 hearing any legislative changes recommended by the research
122 organization.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To require the CTNext board of directors to issue a request for proposals to enter into an agreement with a private research organization to advise, guide and assist the state in short-term and long-term strategic economic planning.

[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.]