



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 1058**

January Session, 2017



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

22 state to identify strategic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and  
23 threats with respect to the objectives described in subdivisions (1) to  
24 (6), inclusive, of this subsection, and (B) develop and promote concrete  
25 policy recommendations informed by such assessment.

26 (b) To accomplish the objectives described in subsection (a) of this  
27 section, the selected research organization 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 described in  
60 subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, in order to be  
61 updated 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 annually in its fourth  
84 quarter report legislative and programmatic changes the organization  
85 recommends and specific action steps to accomplish the state's goals as

86 described 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 Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1, "(NEW)" was added for accuracy, and Subsec. (a)(7), the first sentence of Subsec. (b) and Subsecs. (b)(5) and (c)(2) were rewritten for accuracy and consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**FIN**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*