



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

**Amendment**

LCO No. 7848



Offered by:  
REP. ROJAS, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6948

File No. 501

Cal. No. 342

**"AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsection (a) of section 32-741 of the general statutes is  
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
5 *passage*):

6 (a) In order to coordinate, implement and promote responsible  
7 economic growth and activities in this state, any of the following  
8 entities may, after approval by the Commissioner of Economic and  
9 Community Development [,] and the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
10 and Management, [and the Assistant Secretary of Economic  
11 Development of the United States Department of Commerce,] either  
12 individually or in conjunction with one or more other such entities,  
13 establish a regional economic development district for the purposes of  
14 sections 8-35a, 16a-27, 32-1o and 32-742 to 32-745, inclusive, as  
15 amended by this act; (1) A regional economic development

16 commission formed under section 7-137; (2) any organization that has  
17 a strategy that would meet the requirements of section 32-742, as  
18 amended by this act; [and has been approved by the Assistant  
19 Secretary of Economic Development of the United States Department  
20 of Commerce;] (3) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under  
21 Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
22 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended  
23 from time to time; (4) another regional economic development  
24 commission or corporation formed under any other provision of the  
25 general statutes or any special act; or (5) a regional council of  
26 governments, as defined in section 4-124i. The entity or entities  
27 establishing a regional economic development district shall provide for  
28 a board of directors of the district. Not more than nine regional  
29 economic development districts shall be established pursuant to this  
30 subsection.

31 Sec. 502. Section 32-742 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
32 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

33 (a) The board of directors of a regional economic development  
34 district shall comply with the provisions of 13 CFR 304.2 and shall  
35 prepare and approve a comprehensive economic development strategy  
36 for the district to address identified economic development problems  
37 in a manner that promotes economic development and opportunity  
38 and housing availability, fosters effective transportation access,  
39 improves workforce development, enhances and protects the  
40 environment, balances resources through sound management of  
41 development, and encourages responsible growth and development. A  
42 comprehensive economic development strategy shall contain:

43 (1) An analysis of economic and community development problems  
44 and opportunities, including incorporation of any relevant material or  
45 suggestions from other government-sponsored or supported plans;

46 (2) Background and history of economic development in the district,  
47 with a discussion of the economy, geography, population, labor force,

48 resources and the environment;

49 (3) A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts  
50 for the strategy;

51 (4) The goals and objectives for (A) taking advantage of the  
52 opportunities in the district, and (B) solving the economic  
53 development problems of the district;

54 (5) A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement the  
55 goals and objectives set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection; and

56 (6) Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and  
57 to what extent such goals and objectives have been met.

58 (b) Upon approving the comprehensive economic development  
59 strategy for a district, the board of directors of the district shall submit  
60 the strategy to each regional [planning organization] council of  
61 governments, as defined in section 4-124i, serving [any portion of] the  
62 geographical area of such district, [, except if such regional planning  
63 organization is not part of the regional economic development district  
64 pursuant to section 32-741. The] Each such regional [planning  
65 organizations] council of governments shall study the strategy and  
66 shall report [their] its findings and recommendations thereon to the  
67 district not later than ninety days after the receipt of the strategy,  
68 except if such regional council of governments is a regional economic  
69 development district established pursuant to section 32-741, as  
70 amended by this act.

71 (c) After review and comment on the comprehensive economic  
72 development strategy under subsection (b) of this section, the board of  
73 directors of the district shall submit the strategy to the Commissioner  
74 of Economic and Community Development and the Secretary of the  
75 Office of Policy and Management. The secretary and the commissioner  
76 shall review the strategy and, not later than sixty days after receiving  
77 the strategy, shall either notify such board of directors of approval of  
78 the strategy or provide the board with recommendations for

79 modifying the strategy for consistency with the state plan of  
80 conservation and development adopted pursuant to chapter 297 and  
81 the state-wide comprehensive economic development strategy  
82 required under section 32-1o. If neither the commissioner nor the  
83 secretary notifies the board within such sixty days, the strategy shall be  
84 deemed to have been approved. If said commissioner or secretary  
85 recommends modifications, the board shall modify the strategy in  
86 accordance with such recommendations and resubmit the strategy for  
87 review in the same manner as for the original submission of the  
88 strategy. After approval by said commissioner and secretary and with  
89 the concurrence from the board of directors of the districts, the  
90 regional economic development district may submit such strategy to  
91 the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce  
92 for approval pursuant to 42 USC 3121 et seq.

93 (d) The board of directors of a regional economic development  
94 district shall, annually, report to the commissioner and the secretary on  
95 progress made in implementing the comprehensive economic  
96 development strategy. A new or revised strategy shall be developed at  
97 least once every five years. The board shall submit each new or revised  
98 strategy for review and approval in accordance with the same  
99 procedure as for a strategy under subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

100 Sec. 503. Section 32-743 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
101 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

102 [(a) The boards of directors of regional economic development  
103 districts shall submit each adopted and approved comprehensive  
104 economic development strategy to the Commissioner of Economic and  
105 Community Development and to the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
106 and Management for review. Said commissioner and secretary may  
107 review and make recommendations to the regional economic  
108 development districts for consolidation of the comprehensive  
109 economic development strategies to encompass not more than eight  
110 regions for the entire state. After review by said commissioner and  
111 secretary and with the concurrence from the board of directors of the

112 districts, the regional economic development districts may submit such  
113 strategy to the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of  
114 Commerce for approval pursuant to 42 USC 3121 et seq.

115 (b)] A board of directors of a [state approved] regional economic  
116 development district established pursuant to section 32-741, as  
117 amended by this act, that adopts a comprehensive economic  
118 development strategy in accordance with [sections 32-741 and] section  
119 32-742, as amended by this act, may request the Commissioner of  
120 Economic and Community Development to approve the region as an  
121 economic development district. If said commissioner approves the  
122 regional economic development district as an economic development  
123 district, said commissioner shall recommend to the Governor that the  
124 region be designated by the Governor as an economic development  
125 district. Upon such designation by the Governor, the board of directors  
126 may request federal designation as an economic development district  
127 from the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of  
128 Commerce pursuant to 42 USC 3121 et seq. Approval by the  
129 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development of the  
130 comprehensive economic development strategy under section 32-742,  
131 as amended by this act, shall be deemed to meet the requirements of 42  
132 USC 3121 et seq."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	32-741(a)
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	32-742
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	32-743