



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 1020

LCO No. 4399



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PILOT PROGRAM IN THE NAUGATUCK VALLEY.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Department of
2 Economic and Community Development shall establish, within
3 available appropriations, a regional economic development matching
4 grant pilot program for the purpose of providing matching funds to
5 regional economic development corporations in the Naugatuck Valley
6 for the implementation of economic development programs in
7 distressed municipalities. Such pilot program shall be available to any
8 regional development corporation representing not less than five
9 municipalities in the Naugatuck Valley. The department may enter into
10 an agreement, pursuant to chapter 55a of the general statutes, with a
11 person, firm, corporation or other entity to operate such program. Such
12 pilot program shall expire on June 30, 2026.

13 (b) Applications for participation in such pilot program shall be
14 submitted in a manner prescribed by the department. Each application
15 shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: (1) The location

16 of the principal place of business of the applicant; (2) an explanation of
17 the economic development program for which the matching grant is
18 being applied; (3) the amount and source of funding for such program
19 the applicant seeks to have matched; and (4) such other information the
20 department deems necessary.

21 (c) In determining whether an applicant shall be selected for a
22 matching grant pursuant to this section, the department, or the operator,
23 if any, selected pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall consider,
24 but need not be limited to, the following factors: (1) The description of
25 the economic development program proposed by the applicant; (2) the
26 resources and record of success of the applicant relative to economic
27 development programs implemented by the applicant in the applicant's
28 region; and (3) the potential impact of the proposed economic
29 development program on the workforce in the region where the
30 applicant is located. The department may provide, within available
31 funds, matching grants to eligible applicants for the funding of
32 economic development programs proposed in such applications. No
33 applicant shall receive more than five million dollars for any single
34 proposed economic development program for the duration of the pilot
35 program.

36 (d) Not later than two years after the receipt of any financial aid
37 pursuant to this section, and annually thereafter, each regional
38 economic development corporation participating in the pilot program
39 shall submit a report to the Department of Economic and Community
40 Development detailing the progress of the economic development
41 program proposed in such corporation's application and containing any
42 additional information deemed necessary by the Commissioner of
43 Economic and Community Development.

44 (e) Not later than January 15, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
45 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit
46 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
47 statutes, containing an evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of
48 the pilot program to the joint standing committee of the General

49 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a regional economic development pilot program in the Naugatuck Valley.

[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.]