



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5504

LCO No. 4048



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:
(FIN)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF AN ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 32-70 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (c) (1) On or before September 30, 1993, the Commissioner of
5 Economic and Community Development shall approve the designation
6 of ten areas as enterprise zones, not more than four of which shall be in
7 municipalities with a population greater than eighty thousand and not
8 more than six of which shall be in municipalities with a population of
9 less than eighty thousand.

10 (2) (A) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner shall approve
11 the designation of two areas as enterprise zones. Each such area shall be
12 in a municipality with a population of less than eighty thousand, in
13 which there are one or more base or plant closures. Such municipalities
14 shall be in different counties. If the commissioner approves the

15 designation of an area of a municipality as an enterprise zone because
16 of a plant closure in the municipality and there is a closure of another
17 plant in any other municipality in the state by the same business, the
18 commissioner shall also designate an area in such other municipality as
19 an enterprise zone. If any such designated area includes a portion of a
20 census tract in which any such base or plant is located, the census tracts
21 in such area shall not be required to meet the eligibility criteria set forth
22 under subsection (a) of this section for enterprise zone designation. If
23 any such area is located elsewhere in the municipality, the census tracts
24 in such area shall meet such eligibility criteria. As used in this
25 subparagraph, (i) "base" means any United States or state of Connecticut
26 military base or facility located in whole or in part within the state; (ii)
27 "plant" means any manufacturing business or economic base business,
28 as defined in section 32-222; and (iii) "closure" means any reduction or
29 transfer in military personnel or civilian employment at one or more
30 bases or plants in a municipality, which occurred between July 1, 1989,
31 and July 1, 1993, or is scheduled to occur between July 1, 1993, and July
32 1, 1996, and exceeds two thousand persons. Such employment figures
33 shall be certified by the Labor Department.

34 (B) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner shall approve the
35 designation of three other areas as enterprise zones, one of which shall
36 be in a municipality with a population greater than eighty thousand and
37 two of which shall be in municipalities with a population of less than
38 eighty thousand. The census tracts in such areas shall meet the eligibility
39 criteria set forth under subsection (a) of this section for enterprise zone
40 designation. The commissioner shall approve the designation of
41 enterprise zones under this subparagraph for those municipalities
42 which he or she determines to have experienced the largest increases in
43 poverty from October 1, 1989, to October 1, 1993, inclusive, based on a
44 weighted average of the unemployment rate, caseload under the
45 temporary family assistance program and per capita income of less than
46 ninety per cent of the state average between 1985 and 1989. In making
47 his determination, the commissioner may also consider the vacancy
48 rates for commercial and industrial facilities in a municipality and a

49 municipality's program for the implementation of an effective
50 enterprise zone program. To the extent appropriate, the commissioner
51 shall use the Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) system in making
52 the calculations for such determination.

53 (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
54 municipalities that were not distressed municipalities under the
55 provisions of subsection (b) of section 32-9p on February 1, 1986, shall
56 be eligible to designate areas as enterprise zones under subparagraph
57 (A) or (B) of this subdivision.

58 (3) On or after July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall approve the
59 designation of two areas as enterprise zones as follows: (A) One area
60 shall be in a municipality with a population of not more than fifty
61 thousand, as enumerated in the 2010 federal decennial census, and in
62 which is located a United States Postal Service processing center that at
63 any point in time employed one thousand or more persons, except that
64 such area shall only be designated as an enterprise zone for a term of
65 five years from the date any portion of the area is transferred, provided
66 such transfer occurs on or after July 1, 2014, and (B) one area shall be in
67 a municipality with a population of not less than seven thousand eight
68 hundred and not more than seven thousand nine hundred, as
69 enumerated in the 2010 federal decennial census, and having a total area
70 of not more than 12.2 square miles. Each such enterprise zone area shall
71 consist of two contiguous United States census tracts, contiguous
72 portions of such census tracts or all or a portion of an individual census
73 tract, as determined in accordance with the most recent federal
74 decennial census and, if such area is covered by zoning, a portion of
75 such area shall be zoned to allow commercial or industrial activity. The
76 census tracts in each such enterprise zone area shall not be required to
77 meet the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this section.
78 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
79 municipalities that were not distressed municipalities under the
80 provisions of subsection (b) of section 32-9p on February 1, 1986, shall
81 be eligible to designate areas as enterprise zones under this subdivision.

82 (4) (A) The commissioner shall not approve the designation of more
83 than one enterprise zone in any municipality. The commissioner shall
84 adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 concerning such
85 additional qualifications for an area to become an enterprise zone as he
86 or she deems necessary.

87 (B) The commissioner may remove the designation of any area he or
88 she has approved as an enterprise zone if such area no longer meets the
89 criteria for designation as such an area set forth in this section or in
90 regulations adopted pursuant to this section, [provided] except that no
91 such designation shall be removed (i) less than ten years from the
92 original date of approval of such zone, or (ii) if the number of residents
93 in such area with income below the poverty level, as determined by the
94 most recent United States census, has not been reduced by at least
95 seventy-five per cent from the original date of approval of such zone.

96 (C) The commissioner may designate any additional area as an
97 enterprise zone if that area is designated as an enterprise zone,
98 empowerment zone or enterprise community pursuant to any federal
99 legislation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-70(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the removal of the designation of an enterprise zone if the number of residents in such designated area with income below the poverty level has not been reduced by at least seventy-five per cent from the original date of approval of such zone.

[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.]