



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6754

LCO No. 4813



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING INCENTIVES TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT
OF INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024, and applicable to income and*
2 *taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this
3 section:

4 (1) "Employer" means a person engaged in business that has
5 employees and that is subject to tax under chapter 208 or 229 of the
6 general statutes;

7 (2) "Income year" means the income year or taxable year, as
8 determined under chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes, as the case
9 may be; and

10 (3) "New qualifying employee" means an individual with intellectual
11 disability, as defined in section 1-1g of the general statutes, who is hired
12 by an employer during the employer's income years commencing on or
13 after January 1, 2024.

14 (b) (1) There is established a workforce development credit program
15 for employers whereby an employer who hires a new qualifying
16 employee may be allowed a credit against the tax imposed under
17 chapter 208 or 229 of the general statutes, other than the liability
18 imposed by section 12-707 of the general statutes.

19 (2) (A) With respect to each new qualifying employee who is hired to
20 work twenty-five hours or more per week, the credit shall be equal to
21 thirty per cent of the annual wage of such new qualifying employee,
22 provided the credit allowed under this subparagraph shall not exceed
23 five thousand dollars for any such employee for any one income year.

24 (B) With respect to each new qualifying employee who is hired to
25 work at least eight but less than twenty-five hours per week, the credit
26 shall be equal to fifteen per cent of the annual wage of such new
27 qualifying employee, provided the credit allowed under this
28 subparagraph shall not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for
29 any such employee for any one income year.

30 (3) No employer may claim a credit for any new qualifying employee
31 who (A) is an owner, member or partner in the business of the employer,
32 (B) is not employed by the employer at the close of the income year of
33 the employer, (C) is hired to replace a former employee of such
34 employer who was laid off, or (D) is hired to replace an employee of
35 such employer who is on strike.

36 (4) No employer claiming the credit under this section, with respect
37 to a new qualifying employee, may claim any credit against any tax
38 under any other provision of the general statutes with respect to the
39 same new qualifying employee.

40 (c) If the employer is an S corporation or an entity treated as a
41 partnership for federal income tax purposes, the credit may be claimed
42 by the shareholders or partners of the employer. If the employer is a
43 single-member limited liability company that is disregarded as an entity
44 separate from its owner, the credit may be claimed by the limited
45 liability company's owner.

46 (d) For an employer subject to the tax imposed under chapter 229 of
47 the general statutes, no credit allowed under this section shall exceed
48 the amount of tax imposed by chapter 229 of the general statutes.

49 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 4a-59 of the general statutes is
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
51 *1, 2023*):

52 (c) All open market orders or contracts shall be awarded to (1) the
53 lowest responsible qualified bidder, the qualities of the articles to be
54 supplied, their conformity with the specifications, their suitability to the
55 requirements of the state government and the delivery terms being
56 taken into consideration and, at the discretion of the Commissioner of
57 Administrative Services, life-cycle costs and trade-in or resale value of
58 the articles may be considered where it appears to be in the best interest
59 of the state, (2) the highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, in
60 accordance with the criteria set forth in the bid solicitation for the
61 contract, or (3) the proposer whose proposal is deemed by the awarding
62 authority to be the most advantageous to the state, in accordance with
63 the criteria set forth in the request for proposals, including price and
64 evaluation factors. Notwithstanding any provision of the general
65 statutes to the contrary, each state agency awarding a contract through
66 competitive negotiation shall include price as an explicit factor in the
67 criteria in the request for proposals and for the contract award. In
68 considering past performance of a bidder for the purpose of
69 determining the "lowest responsible qualified bidder" or the "highest
70 scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid", the commissioner shall
71 evaluate the skill, ability and integrity of the bidder in terms of the
72 bidder's fulfillment of past contract obligations and the bidder's
73 experience or lack of experience in delivering supplies, materials,
74 equipment or contractual services of the size or amount for which bids
75 have been solicited. In determining the lowest responsible qualified
76 bidder for the purposes of this section, the commissioner may give a
77 price preference of up to ten per cent for (A) the purchase of goods made
78 with recycled materials or the purchase of recyclable or remanufactured
79 products if the commissioner determines that such preference would

80 promote recycling or remanufacturing. As used in this subsection,
81 "recyclable" means able to be collected, separated or otherwise
82 recovered from the solid waste stream for reuse, or for use in the
83 manufacture or assembly of another package or product, by means of a
84 recycling program which is reasonably available to at least seventy-five
85 per cent of the state's population, "remanufactured" means restored to
86 its original function and thereby diverted from the solid waste stream
87 by retaining the bulk of components that have been used at least once
88 and by replacing consumable components and "remanufacturing"
89 means any process by which a product is remanufactured; (B) the
90 purchase of motor vehicles powered by a clean alternative fuel; (C) the
91 purchase of motor vehicles powered by fuel other than a clean
92 alternative fuel and conversion equipment to convert such motor
93 vehicles allowing the vehicles to be powered by either the exclusive use
94 of clean alternative fuel or dual use of a clean alternative fuel and a fuel
95 other than a clean alternative fuel. As used in this subsection, "clean
96 alternative fuel" means natural gas, electricity, hydrogen or propane
97 when used as a motor vehicle fuel; [or] (D) the purchase of goods or
98 services from a micro business, except that, in the case of a veteran-
99 owned micro business, the commissioner may give a price preference of
100 up to fifteen per cent. As used in this subsection, "micro business" means
101 a business with gross revenues not exceeding three million dollars in the
102 most recently completed fiscal year, "veteran-owned micro business"
103 means a micro business of which at least fifty-one per cent of the
104 ownership is held by one or more veterans and "veteran" has the same
105 meaning as provided in section 27-103; or (E) the purchase of goods or
106 services from a business that, at the time when a bid or proposal is
107 submitted, employs a workforce of which not less than ten per cent
108 consists of individuals with intellectual disability, as defined in section
109 1-1g. All other factors being equal, preference shall be given to supplies,
110 materials and equipment produced, assembled or manufactured in the
111 state and services originating and provided in the state. Except with
112 regard to contracts that may be paid for with United States Department
113 of Transportation funds, if any such bidder refuses to accept, within ten
114 days, a contract awarded to such bidder, such contract may be awarded

115 to the next lowest responsible qualified bidder or the next highest
116 scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, and so
117 on until such contract is awarded and accepted. Except with regard to
118 contracts that may be paid for with United States Department of
119 Transportation funds, if any such proposer refuses to accept, within ten
120 days, a contract awarded to such proposer, such contract shall be
121 awarded to the next most advantageous proposer, and so on until the
122 contract is awarded and accepted. There shall be a written evaluation
123 made of each bid. This evaluation shall identify the vendors and their
124 respective costs and prices, document the reason why any vendor is
125 deemed to be nonresponsive and recommend a vendor for award. A
126 contract valued at one million dollars or more shall be awarded to a
127 bidder other than the lowest responsible qualified bidder or the highest
128 scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, only
129 with written approval signed by the Commissioner of Administrative
130 Services and by the Comptroller. The commissioner shall post on the
131 department's Internet web site all awards made pursuant to the
132 provisions of this section.

133 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) (1) The Commissioner of
134 Economic and Community Development shall establish a workforce
135 development program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that
136 employ individuals with intellectual disability, as defined in section 1-
137 1g of the general statutes. Such grants shall be awarded for
138 infrastructure expenditures, start-up costs or expansion costs.

139 (2) Any nonprofit organization that employs, at the time of
140 application, a workforce of which not less than ten per cent consists of
141 individuals with intellectual disability, as defined in section 1-1g of the
142 general statutes, may apply for a grant under the program.

143 (3) Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed:

144 (A) Twenty-five thousand dollars per nonprofit organization
145 employing a workforce of which between ten and thirty per cent
146 consists of individuals with intellectual disability; and

147 (B) Seventy-five thousand dollars per nonprofit organization
148 employing a workforce of which more than thirty per cent consists of
149 individuals with intellectual disability.

150 (b) The Department of Economic and Community Development may
151 enter into an agreement, pursuant to chapter 55a of the general statutes,
152 with a person, firm, corporation or other entity to operate the program
153 established pursuant to this section.

154 (c) The commissioner shall prescribe the form and manner of the
155 application and such application procedure shall include a competitive
156 award process.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2024, and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	4a-59(c)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish: (1) A tax credit for certain employers that hire individuals with intellectual disability; (2) a state contracting price preference for certain businesses employing individuals with intellectual disability; and (3) a competitive grant program for certain nonprofit organizations employing individuals with intellectual disability.

[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.]