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## OLR BILL ANALYSIS

### SB 1002

#### ***AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATUTES***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill designates the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to chair the boards of the Connecticut Development Authority and Connecticut Innovations, Inc. Under current law, the commissioner serves as an ex officio member of both boards. Also under current law, the governor appoints their chairpersons, with the legislature's advice and consent (§§ 30 and 31).

The bill transfers to DECD the powers, duties, and functions of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCCT), making many conforming changes. The 28-member Culture and Tourism Commission oversees a staff that implements the state's tourism policies and programs. The bill changes this body into an advisory committee, places it within DECD, transfers most of its powers to the commissioner (§ 6), and eliminates an obsolete statute. It also transfers some of the duties of CCCT's executive director to the chairperson of the advisory committee.

Lastly, the bill requires the DECD commissioner to create job training programs within available appropriations. The programs may increase employee basic skills, help people overcome employment barriers, sustain high-growth occupations and economically-vital industries, and meet the state's job needs.

The bill requires the commissioner to specify how entities may apply for these grants. In doing so, he must include a request for proposals or a competitive award process. DECD can administer the

grants itself or under a personal services agreement with a personal services agreement with a person, firm, corporation, or other entity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

PRELIMINARY