



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 332

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5467

House of Representatives, April 1, 2026

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. MESKERS of the 150th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONCIERGE SERVICES TO SMALL BUSINESSES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 32-9n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and
4 Community Development an Office of Small Business Affairs. Such
5 office shall aid and encourage small business enterprises, particularly
6 those owned and operated by minorities and other socially or
7 economically disadvantaged individuals in Connecticut. As used in this
8 section, "minority" means: (1) Black Americans, including all persons
9 having origins in any of the Black African racial groups not of Hispanic
10 origin; (2) Hispanic Americans, including all persons of Mexican, Puerto
11 Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or
12 origin, regardless of race; (3) all persons having origins in the Iberian

13 Peninsula, including Portugal, regardless of race; (4) women; (5) Asian
14 Pacific Americans and Pacific islanders; or (6) American Indians and
15 persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America
16 and maintaining identifiable tribal affiliations through membership and
17 participation or community identification.

18 (b) Said Office of Small Business Affairs shall: (1) Administer at least
19 one regional office of the small business development center program
20 within the Department of Economic and Community Development; (2)
21 coordinate, with the director of the small business development center
22 program, the flow of information within the technical and management
23 assistance program within the Department of Economic and
24 Community Development; (3) encourage Connecticut Innovations,
25 Incorporated to grant loans to small businesses, particularly those
26 owned and operated by minorities and other socially or economically
27 disadvantaged individuals; (4) coordinate and serve as a liaison
28 between all federal, state, regional and municipal agencies and
29 programs affecting small business affairs; (5) administer any business
30 management training program established under section 32-352 or
31 section 32-355 as the Commissioner of Economic and Community
32 Development may determine; (6) provide a single point of contact for
33 small businesses seeking financial and technical assistance from the
34 state and quasi-public agencies; (7) coordinate all state funded revolving
35 loan funds used to assist small businesses; and (8) establish, in
36 cooperation with the Commissioner of Economic and Community
37 Development, and within available appropriations, an informational
38 web page with a list and links to all small business resources available
39 and post them in a conspicuous place on the department's web site. The
40 office shall update this information on its web site on at least a quarterly
41 basis.

42 (c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
43 shall designate an employee of the Department of Economic and
44 Community Development to be responsible for providing concierge
45 services to small businesses in the state. For purposes of this subsection,
46 "concierge services" includes, but is not be limited to, providing

47 information and assistance relating to economic or community
48 development projects or programs administered by the department.

49 [(c)] (d) On or after February 1, 2011, the Office of Small Business
50 Affairs shall compile a summary of all small business activities and
51 programs available and incorporate such summary into the report
52 required pursuant to section 32-1m.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	32-9n

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (c), "Department of Economic and Community Development" was changed to "department" for consistency with the other provisions of the section.

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Cost	77,300	103,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	32,300	43,100

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of \$109,500 in FY 27 and \$146,100 in FY 28 and annually thereafter to the Department of Economic and Community Development by requiring the agency to designate a department employee to provide Connecticut small businesses concierge services.

The agency will require one full-time community development specialist at an annualized cost of \$103,000 in salary and \$43,100 in fringe benefits to provide these concierge services.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5467

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONCIERGE SERVICES TO SMALL BUSINESSES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to designate a department employee to give Connecticut small businesses concierge services, including information and assistance about DECD-administered economic or community development projects and programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)