



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 561

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 307

Senate, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. HARTLEY of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE COMMERCE STATUTES.

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

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 Section 32-1u of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) The Department of Economic and Community Development [,
4 through its Office of Film, Television and Digital Media,] shall serve as
5 a state-wide point of contact for all producers of film, television and
6 digital media productions requesting permission to (1) conduct film
7 production activities on state-owned property, including, but not
8 limited to, all state roads and highways, railroads and train stations,
9 state forests and parks, airports and seaports, hospitals and all
10 campuses of the public institutions of higher education in the state; and
11 (2) use any other state-owned real or personal property, except
12 courthouses and judicial branch facilities, for such purposes.

13 (b) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
14 may issue a state film permit, on a form designated by the
15 commissioner, to any person seeking to conduct film production
16 activities on such state-owned property. Such permit shall specify the
17 insurance coverage that the permittee shall be required to obtain, as
18 determined by the commissioner in consultation with the state's
19 Director of Insurance and Risk Management, with the state named as an
20 additional insured. No liability shall accrue to the state or any agency or
21 employee of the state for any injuries or damages to any person or
22 property that may result, either directly or indirectly, from such film
23 production activities of the permittee on such state-owned property.

24 (c) A state film permit shall identify the person requesting permission
25 to conduct film production activities on state property and indicate that
26 the permittee has provided documentation to the Department of
27 Economic and Community Development substantiating the permittee's
28 ability to conduct indemnified film production activities. Any permittee
29 seeking permission to conduct film production activities on property
30 controlled by a state agency, authority or institution shall present such
31 permit to such agency, authority or institution when the permittee
32 requests such permission. Following the presentment of such permit by
33 a permittee, such state agency, authority or institution may authorize
34 film production activities by the permittee on such property.

35 (d) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
36 pursuant to section 32-1p, shall establish guidelines to be used in
37 working with state agencies, authorities or institutions to implement the
38 provisions of this section. Such guidelines shall include, but need not be
39 limited to: (1) An agency contact [at the Office of Film, Television and
40 Digital Media] for filing permit applications and for obtaining
41 information on permit requirements; (2) identification of each
42 individual within each respective state agency who shall be a point of
43 contact for an agency permit application; (3) a mandatory
44 preapplication review process to reduce permitting issues or conflicts
45 by providing guidance to applicants on (A) information required for
46 authorization or permit approval from the relevant state agencies,

47 authorities or institutions, (B) specifications for desired on-site
48 production and production-related activities, site suitability and
49 limitations, and (C) steps the applicant can take to ensure expeditious
50 permit application; (4) a single, coordinated production activity
51 description form, including an equipment checklist and personnel
52 roster; (5) a process by which the [Office of Film, Television and Digital
53 Media] Department of Economic and Community Development may
54 forward permit applications to other relevant state agencies, authorities
55 or institutions on behalf of an applicant; and (6) at the commissioner's
56 discretion, a permit fee structure.

57 (e) The [Office of Film, Television and Digital Media, at the request of
58 the] Commissioner of Economic and Community Development [,] may
59 request the assistance of any other agency, authority or institution of the
60 state to assist in providing information and assistance as may be
61 necessary to expedite [such office's] the performance of the duties and
62 responsibilities [under] described in this section. Each officer or
63 employee of such other agency, authority or institution of the state shall
64 make reasonable efforts to cooperate with the [Office of Film, Television
65 and Digital Media] Department of Economic and Community
66 Development.

67 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 32-286 of the general statutes is
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
69 *passage*):

70 (c) (1) Any person described in subsection (b) of this section that seeks
71 an exemption under subsection (b) of this section shall submit an
72 application to the Commissioner of Economic and Community
73 Development, in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner. If
74 the commissioner approves such application, the commissioner shall
75 enter into an agreement with such person, provided such person
76 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that:

77 (A) The facility to be developed, acquired, constructed, rehabilitated,
78 renovated, repaired or operated will be used as a qualified data center;
79 and

80 (B) The qualified data center will make, on or before the fifth
81 anniversary of the date an agreement entered into pursuant to this
82 section becomes effective, a qualified investment of at least (i) fifty
83 million dollars if such qualified data center is located in an enterprise
84 zone designated pursuant to section 32-70 or a federal qualified
85 opportunity zone designated pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of
86 2017, P.L. 115-97, as amended from time to time, or (ii) two hundred
87 million dollars if such qualified data center is not located in an
88 enterprise zone or a federal qualified opportunity zone.

89 (2) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection shall:

90 (A) Be for a period of twenty years, unless extended under the
91 provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection, from the date an
92 agreement entered into pursuant to this section becomes effective,
93 which may be in the year in which the construction, rehabilitation,
94 renovation or repair of a qualified data center commences;

95 (B) Include a five-year qualifying period, from the date an agreement
96 entered into pursuant to this section becomes effective, for the
97 applicable qualified investment amount set forth in subparagraph (B) of
98 subdivision (1) of this subsection to be reached;

99 (C) Include the payment of an annual fee by the qualified data center,
100 to be determined annually by the commissioner and not to exceed fifty
101 thousand dollars, for the administrative and operational costs [of the
102 Office of Data Infrastructure Administration and Security established
103 under subdivision (5) of this subsection] relating to the department's
104 processing of applications submitted pursuant to the provisions of this
105 subsection. Such fee shall be paid by the qualified data center to the
106 commissioner during each year of such qualifying period or until the
107 applicable qualified investment amount set forth in subparagraph (B) of
108 subdivision (1) of this subsection is reached, whichever is sooner;

109 (D) Include a detailed description of the capital project that is the
110 subject of the agreement;

111 (E) Provide that the provisions of the agreement shall be applicable,
112 within the time period such agreement is effective and for the remaining
113 duration of such time period, to any (i) subsequent owner of the
114 qualified data center, (ii) operator or affiliate of the operator of the
115 qualified data center, or (iii) colocation tenant, provided the facility
116 continues to be used as a qualified data center; and

117 (F) Include provisions for the assessment and payment of the taxes
118 exempted pursuant to such agreement and the rates or amounts of
119 penalties and interest to be imposed thereon, if the commissioner
120 determines that the requirements of the agreement or of a qualified data
121 center are not being met or have not been met.

122 (3) If a qualified data center makes a qualified investment of at least
123 (A) two hundred million dollars if such qualified data center is located
124 in an enterprise zone designated pursuant to section 32-70 or a federal
125 qualified opportunity zone designated pursuant to the Tax Cuts and
126 Jobs Act of 2017, P.L. 115-97, as amended from time to time, or (B) four
127 hundred million dollars if such qualified data center is not located in an
128 enterprise zone or a federal qualified opportunity zone, the
129 commissioner shall extend to thirty years the period for which an
130 agreement entered into pursuant to this section is effective.

131 (4) Any qualified data center that enters into an agreement pursuant
132 to this section and makes the applicable qualified investment amount
133 set forth in subdivision (3) of this subsection, and any operator or
134 affiliate of and colocation tenant of such qualified data center, shall be
135 exempt from any financial transactions tax or fee that may be imposed
136 by the state on trades of stocks, bonds, derivatives and other financial
137 products. The exemption under this subdivision shall be effective for a
138 period of thirty years from the date the construction, rehabilitation,
139 renovation or repair of a facility is completed, as determined by the
140 commissioner. The commissioner may incorporate the provisions of this
141 subdivision into the agreement entered into pursuant to this section or
142 amend an existing agreement with a qualified data center to incorporate
143 the provisions of this subdivision.

144 (5) [There is established an Office of Data Infrastructure
145 Administration and Security within the Department of Economic and
146 Community Development. The office] The Department of Economic
147 and Community Development shall (A) serve as the liaison between
148 applicants and qualified data centers and other state agencies, (B)
149 provide assistance to applicants and qualified data centers from the
150 preapplication phase to the post-operational stage, and (C) seek to
151 ensure coordinated, efficient and timely responses to applicants and
152 qualified data centers.

153 Sec. 3. Section 32-726 of the general statutes is repealed and the
154 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

155 (a) As used in this section:

156 (1) "Jobs" means permanent, full-time equivalent positions, not
157 including construction jobs;

158 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Economic and
159 Community Development;

160 (3) "Permit applications" means applications for state permits and
161 licenses; and

162 (4) "Permit ombudsman" means the [office of the] person the
163 commissioner designates as the permit ombudsman [established]
164 within the Department of Economic and Community Development
165 [under] pursuant to the provisions of this section.

166 (b) (1) The commissioner shall [establish an office of the] designate a
167 permit ombudsman for the purpose of expediting review of permit
168 applications for projects that would (A) create at least one hundred jobs,
169 (B) create fifty jobs, if such project is to be located in an enterprise zone
170 designated pursuant to section 32-70, (C) be located in a brownfield, as
171 defined in section 32-760, (D) be compatible with the state's responsible
172 growth initiatives, (E) be considered transit-oriented development, as
173 defined in section 13b-79kk, (F) develop green technology business, (G)
174 develop bioscience business, (H) develop any of the state's federally

175 designated opportunity zones, or (I) meet the criteria set forth in
176 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Projects ineligible for review under
177 this section are projects for which the primary purpose is to (i) effect the
178 final disposal of solid waste, biomedical waste or hazardous waste in
179 this state, (ii) produce electrical power, unless the production of
180 electricity is incidental and not the primary function of the project, (iii)
181 extract natural resources, (iv) produce oil, or (v) construct, maintain or
182 operate an oil, petroleum, natural gas or sewage pipeline. For purposes
183 of this section, "responsible growth initiatives" includes the principles of
184 smart growth, as defined in section 1 of public act 09-230, and "green
185 technology business" means an eligible business with not less than
186 twenty-five per cent of its employment positions being positions in
187 which green technology is employed or developed and may include the
188 occupation codes identified as green jobs by the Department of
189 Economic and Community Development and the Labor Department for
190 such purposes. The permit ombudsman shall also assist and provide
191 guidance to bioscience businesses seeking to expedite the review and
192 approval of permits required by local zoning authorities.

193 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
194 subsection, the commissioner may, upon consideration of the economic
195 impact factors of the project that include, but are not limited to: (A) The
196 proposed wage and skill levels relative to those existing in the area in
197 which the project may be located, (B) the project's potential to diversify
198 and strengthen the state and local economy, (C) the amount of capital
199 investment, and (D) in the judgment of the commissioner, after
200 consultation with the Departments of Energy and Environmental
201 Protection, Transportation and Public Health that there is consistency
202 with the strategic economic development priorities of the state and the
203 municipality, deem projects eligible for expedited permitting pursuant
204 to this section.

205 (c) The Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection,
206 Transportation and Public Health shall each designate through existing
207 and available resources one or more staff members to act as a business
208 ombudsmen and a liaison between their [offices] departments and the

209 permit [ombudsmen] ombudsman. The Commissioners of Economic
210 and Community Development, Energy and Environmental Protection,
211 Transportation and Public Health shall enter into a memorandum of
212 understanding concerning each entity's responsibilities with respect to
213 the permit [ombudsmen] ombudsman and the process for expediting
214 eligible permit applications, which shall include appropriate
215 opportunities for public participation.

216 (d) The memorandum of understanding may provide for the waiver
217 or modification of procedural rules prescribing forms, fees, procedures
218 or time limits for the review or processing of permit applications under
219 the jurisdiction of those agencies. Notwithstanding any other provision
220 of the general statutes, to the extent feasible, the memorandum of
221 understanding shall provide for proceedings and hearings otherwise
222 held separately by the parties to be combined into one proceeding or
223 held jointly and at one location. Such waivers or modifications shall not
224 be available for permit applications governed by federally delegated or
225 approved permitting programs, the requirements of which would
226 prohibit, or be inconsistent with, such waivers or modifications. In no
227 event shall the memorandum of understanding waive requirements of
228 environmental statutes or regulations.

229 (e) The permit ombudsman may solicit the assistance of volunteers
230 from the private sector, including volunteers from a state-wide business
231 association, the Office of Responsible Growth, established pursuant to
232 section 4-66d, and [from] an association representing small businesses.
233 Said volunteers may assist the permit ombudsman in developing the
234 guidelines established pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

235 (f) The permit ombudsman, subject to the approval of the
236 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, shall
237 establish, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, guidelines to be used
238 in working with state permitting authorities to implement the
239 provisions of this section. Guidelines shall include, but are not limited
240 to, the following: (1) An agency contact point for filing permit
241 applications and for obtaining information on permit requirements; (2)

242 identification of the individual or individuals within each respective
243 agency who shall be responsible for processing the expedited permit
244 application; (3) a mandatory preapplication review process to reduce
245 permitting conflicts by providing guidance to applicants on (A) the
246 permits needed from each agency, (B) specifications for site planning
247 and development, site suitability and limitations and facility design, and
248 (C) steps the applicant can take to ensure expeditious permit application
249 and local comprehensive plan amendment review; (4) a single,
250 coordinated project description form and checklist and an agreement by
251 state agencies to reduce the necessity that an applicant provide
252 duplicate information to multiple agencies; and (5) an application fee
253 structure for permit expedition.

254 (g) The permit ombudsman, at the request of the Commissioner of
255 Economic and Community Development, may request the assistance of
256 any other department, board, commission or other agency of the state to
257 assist in providing information and assistance as said permit
258 ombudsman determines necessary to expedite its duties and
259 responsibilities. Each officer or employee of such office, department,
260 board, commission or other agency of the state shall make reasonable
261 efforts to cooperate with the permit ombudsman.

262 (h) The expedited permitting process established pursuant to this
263 section shall not modify, qualify or otherwise alter existing agency
264 nonprocedural standards for permit applications, unless expressly
265 authorized by law. If it is determined that the applicant is not eligible to
266 use this process, the applicant may apply for permitting of the project
267 through the normal permitting processes.

268 Sec. 4. Subdivision (11) of subsection (a) of section 32-1m of the 2026
269 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
270 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

271 (11) A summary of the department's and the [office of the] permit
272 ombudsman's brownfield-related efforts and activities in the preceding
273 fiscal year.

274 Sec. 5. Section 32-761 of the general statutes is repealed and the
275 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

276 (a) [There is established, within the] The Department of Economic
277 and Community Development [, an Office of Brownfield Remediation
278 and Development. Such office shall be managed by a director,
279 appointed by the commissioner in accordance with section 5-198. In
280 addition to the other powers, duties and responsibilities provided for in
281 this chapter, the office] shall promote and encourage the remediation
282 and development of brownfields in the state. The [Office of Brownfield
283 Remediation and Development] department shall coordinate and
284 cooperate with state and local agencies and individuals within the state
285 on brownfield redevelopment initiatives, including program
286 development and administration, community outreach, regional
287 coordination and seeking federal funding opportunities.

288 (b) The [office] department shall:

289 (1) Develop procedures and policies for streamlining the process for
290 brownfield remediation and development;

291 (2) Identify existing and potential sources of funding for brownfield
292 remediation and develop procedures for expediting the application for
293 and release of such funds;

294 (3) [Establish an office and maintain] Maintain an informational
295 Internet web site to provide assistance and information concerning the
296 state's technical assistance, funding, regulatory and permitting
297 programs for brownfield remediation and development;

298 (4) Provide a single point of contact for financial and technical
299 assistance from the state and quasi-public agencies with regard to
300 brownfield remediation and development;

301 (5) Develop a common application to be used by all state and quasi-
302 public entities providing financial assistance for brownfield assessment,
303 remediation and development;

304 (6) Identify and prioritize state-wide brownfield development
305 opportunities, including, but not limited to, in consultation with the
306 State Historic Preservation [Office] Officer, municipal officials and
307 regional planning organizations, the identification of abandoned and
308 underutilized mills that are important assets to the municipalities or the
309 regions in which such mills are located;

310 (7) Develop and administer a communication and outreach program
311 to educate municipalities, economic development agencies, property
312 owners, potential property owners and other organizations and
313 individuals with regard to state programs for brownfield remediation
314 and redevelopment;

315 (8) At the [office's] department's discretion, enter into cooperative
316 agreements with economic development agencies and may, where
317 appropriate, make grants to such organizations for the purpose of
318 designing, implementing and supervising brownfield assessment and
319 cleanups, or making further subgrants, provided each subgrant is in
320 compliance with the terms and conditions of the original grant; and

321 (9) Create and maintain a web site independent of the department's
322 other web sites that is specifically dedicated to marketing and
323 promoting state-owned brownfields, and develop and implement a
324 marketing campaign for such brownfields and web site.

325 (c) [The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,
326 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Office of Policy and
327 Management and the Department of Public Health shall each designate
328 one or more staff members to act as a liaison between their offices and
329 the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development.] The
330 Commissioners of Economic and Community Development, Energy
331 and Environmental Protection and Public Health, the Secretary of the
332 Office of Policy and Management and the chief executive officer of
333 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated shall enter into a memorandum
334 of understanding concerning each entity's responsibilities with respect
335 to the [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development. The Office
336 of Brownfield Remediation and Development] Department of Economic

337 and Community Development's brownfield and remediation activities.
338 The department may recruit two volunteers from the private sector,
339 including a person from the Connecticut chapter of the National
340 Brownfield Association, with experience in different aspects of
341 brownfield remediation and development. Said volunteers may assist
342 the [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development] department
343 in marketing the brownfield programs and redevelopment activities of
344 the state.

345 (d) The [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development]
346 department may call upon any other department, board, commission or
347 other agency of the state to supply such reports, information and
348 assistance as said [office] department determines is appropriate to carry
349 out its duties and responsibilities. Each officer or employee of such
350 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state is
351 authorized and directed to cooperate with the [Office of Brownfield
352 Remediation and Development] department and to furnish such
353 reports, information and assistance.

354 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 32-764 of the general statutes is
355 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
356 *passage*):

357 (a) Any recipient of a grant pursuant to subsection (b) of section 32-
358 763 or subsection (c) of section 32-9cc of the general statutes, revision of
359 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, shall not be liable under section 22a-
360 427, 22a-432, 22a-433, 22a-451 or 22a-452 for conditions pre-existing or
361 existing on the brownfield property as of the date of acquisition or
362 control, provided such recipient (1) did not establish, create, cause or
363 contribute to the discharge, spillage, uncontrolled loss, seepage or
364 filtration of such hazardous substance, material, waste or pollution that
365 is subject to remediation under section 22a-133k and funded by the
366 [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development or the]
367 Department of Economic and Community Development; (2) does not
368 exacerbate the conditions; and (3) complies with reporting of significant
369 environmental hazard requirements in section 22a-6u. To the extent that

370 any conditions are exacerbated, such recipient shall only be responsible
371 for responding to contamination exacerbated by its negligent or reckless
372 activities.

373 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 32-4r of the 2026 supplement to the
374 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
375 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

376 (e) Not later than January 1, 2024, [and annually thereafter,] the
377 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in
378 consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families, shall
379 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
380 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
381 matters relating to commerce and children regarding the Youth Service
382 Corps grant program.

383 Sec. 8. Subsection (f) of section 32-7aa of the 2026 supplement to the
384 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
385 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

386 (f) Not later than [January] February 1, 2027, and annually thereafter,
387 the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the
388 provisions of section 11-4a, containing an evaluation of the operation
389 and effectiveness of the program to the joint standing committee of the
390 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.

391 Sec. 9. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 38a-88a of the
392 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
393 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

394 (3) (A) On or before July 1, 2010, the Commissioner of Economic and
395 Community Development shall begin to accept applications for
396 certification as an invest CT fund and for allocations of tax credits under
397 this subsection with allocation dates of June 30, 2015, or earlier. On and
398 after September 1, 2015, the commissioner shall accept applications for
399 certification as an invest CT fund and for allocations of tax credits under
400 this subsection with allocation dates of September 1, 2015, or later.

401 Applications shall include: (i) The amount of eligible capital the
402 applicant will raise; (ii) a nonrefundable application fee of seven
403 thousand five hundred dollars; (iii) evidence of satisfaction of the
404 requirements of the definition of "invest CT fund" pursuant to
405 subparagraph (G) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iv) an affidavit
406 by each taxpayer committing an investment of eligible capital; (v) a
407 business plan detailing (I) the approximate percentage of eligible capital
408 the applicant will invest in eligible businesses by the third, fifth, seventh
409 and ninth anniversaries of its allocation date, (II) the industry segments
410 listed by the North American Industrial Classification System code and
411 percentage of eligible capital in which the applicant will invest, (III) the
412 number of jobs that will be created or retained as a result of the
413 applicant's investments once all eligible capital has been invested, (IV)
414 the percentage of eligible capital to be invested in eligible businesses
415 primarily engaged in conducting research and development or
416 manufacturing, processing or assembling technology-based products,
417 and (V) a revenue impact assessment demonstrating that the applicant's
418 business plan has a revenue neutral or positive impact on the state; (vi)
419 a commitment to invest at least twenty-five per cent of its eligible capital
420 in green technology businesses; (vii) with respect to applications
421 submitted on or before June 30, 2015, a commitment to invest, by the
422 third anniversary of its allocation date, three per cent of its eligible
423 capital in preseed investments, and with respect to applications
424 submitted on or after September 1, 2015, a commitment to invest, by the
425 fourth anniversary of the allocation date, seven per cent of its eligible
426 capital in preseed investments, in consultation with Connecticut
427 Innovations, Incorporated, pursuant to the corporation's program for
428 preseed financing established pursuant to section 32-41x; and (viii) with
429 respect to applications submitted on or after September 1, 2015, a
430 commitment to invest at least three per cent of its eligible capital in
431 cybersecurity businesses and at least twenty-five per cent of its eligible
432 capital in eligible businesses located in municipalities with a population
433 greater than eighty thousand. The commissioner may require the
434 applicant to obtain a revenue impact assessment conducted by an
435 independent third party.

436 (B) (i) From October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2026, inclusive, an
437 applicant may submit to the commissioner a request, in such form and
438 manner prescribed by the commissioner, to consider as an eligible
439 business a business that does not have its principal business operations
440 in Connecticut. The commissioner may approve such a request if the
441 commissioner determines that such an approval would significantly
442 advance the objectives of the invest CT fund program, provided such
443 applicant complies with all other requirements under subparagraph (A)
444 of this subdivision.

445 (ii) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a
446 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on any
447 requests approved by the commissioner pursuant to subparagraph
448 (B)(i) of this subdivision during the period of October 1, 2024, to
449 September 30, 2025, inclusive, to the joint standing committee of the
450 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.
451 Not later than [January] February 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit
452 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on any
453 requests approved by the commissioner pursuant to subparagraph
454 (B)(i) of this subdivision during the period of October 1, 2025, to
455 September 30, 2026, inclusive, to the joint standing committee of the
456 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.
457 Such reports shall include, but need not be limited to, a list of the
458 applicants whose requests were approved by the commissioner and an
459 analysis of the benefit to and impact on the state resulting from such
460 approvals.

461 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 32-9aaa of the 2026 supplement to
462 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
463 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

464 (b) Not later than [January] February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter,
465 the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall
466 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to
467 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
468 cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding. Such

469 report shall include (1) the number of applications received by the
470 commissioner during the previous calendar year for a grant-in-aid
471 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2) the total amount of
472 funds requested in such applications.

473 Sec. 11. Section 32-7n of the general statutes is repealed and the
474 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

475 (a) There is established a Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board
476 that shall consist of the following members: (1) Four appointed by the
477 Governor; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
478 (3) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (4)
479 one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one appointed by
480 the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (6) one appointed
481 by the minority leader of the Senate; (7) one appointed by the minority
482 leader of the House of Representatives; (8) the Chief Workforce Officer,
483 or the officer's designee; and (9) the Commissioner of Economic and
484 Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who shall
485 serve as the chairperson of the advisory board. The advisory board may
486 consult with any individual or entity to accomplish its purposes. Each
487 appointed member shall (A) have skill, knowledge and experience in
488 industries and sciences related to aerospace, medical devices,
489 biotechnology, digital manufacturing, digital communication, [or]
490 semiconductors, advanced manufacturing or clean energy production;
491 (B) be a university or community college faculty member or a technical
492 high school teacher in, or hold a graduate degree in, a related discipline,
493 including, but not limited to, additive manufacturing and materials
494 science; (C) have manufacturing education and training expertise; or (D)
495 represent manufacturing related businesses or professional
496 organizations. Appointed members shall each serve a term that is
497 coterminous with the respective appointing authority. Each member
498 shall hold office until a successor is appointed. Any vacancy occurring
499 on the advisory board, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled
500 in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the
501 unexpired term.

502 (b) The chairperson shall call the first meeting of the advisory board
503 not later than September 30, 2014. The advisory board shall meet at such
504 times as the chairperson deems necessary.

505 (c) No member of the advisory board shall receive compensation for
506 such member's services, except that each member shall be entitled to
507 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
508 performance of such member's official duties.

509 (d) A majority of the members of said advisory board shall constitute
510 a quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any
511 power of the advisory board. The advisory board may act by a majority
512 of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in
513 attendance, for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any
514 power of the advisory board, except as otherwise provided in this
515 section.

516 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, it shall not
517 constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner, officer,
518 manager, shareholder, proprietor, counsel or employee of an eligible
519 recipient, or any individual with a financial interest in an eligible
520 recipient, to serve as a member of the advisory board, provided such
521 trustee, director, partner, officer, manager, shareholder, proprietor,
522 counsel, employee or individual shall abstain from deliberation, action
523 or vote by the advisory board concerning any matter relating to such
524 eligible recipient.

525 (f) Any member appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (7),
526 inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section who fails to attend three
527 consecutive meetings of the advisory board or fails to attend fifty per
528 cent of all meetings of the advisory board held during any calendar year
529 shall be deemed to have resigned. If a vacancy occurs as a result of such
530 a resignation, the appointing authority having the power to make the
531 initial appointment under the provisions of this section shall appoint a
532 person for the unexpired term in accordance with the provisions of this
533 section. If such vacancy is not filled within sixty calendar days, the
534 chairperson of the advisory board shall temporarily appoint a person to

535 fill the vacancy until the appointing authority makes an appointment.

536 Sec. 12. Subsection (n) of section 32-7o of the general statutes is
537 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
538 *passage*):

539 (n) Not later than [January 1, 2016] February 1, 2027, and annually
540 thereafter, the administrator shall provide a report of the activities of the
541 Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund to the Manufacturing
542 Innovation Advisory Board for the advisory board's review and
543 approval. Upon such approval, the [advisory board] administrator shall
544 provide such report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
545 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
546 cognizance of matters relating to commerce. Such report shall contain
547 available information on the status and progress of the operations and
548 funding of the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund and the
549 types, amounts and recipients of financial assistance awarded and any
550 returns on investment.

551 Sec. 13. Section 10-397c of the general statutes is repealed and the
552 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

553 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and
554 Community Development, for administrative purposes only, a
555 Connecticut Tourism Council. The council shall consist of (1) the
556 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
557 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Transportation, or
558 the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Energy and
559 Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, (4) thirteen
560 members appointed by the Governor, (A) one of whom shall represent
561 the lodging industry, (B) one of whom shall represent a chamber of
562 commerce, (C) one of whom shall represent a tourist attraction, (D) one
563 of whom shall represent the arts, (E) one of whom shall represent a
564 culturally diverse event or attraction, (F) one of whom shall represent
565 the heritage tourism industry, (G) one of whom shall represent the
566 airline industry, (H) one of whom shall represent the Connecticut
567 Airport Authority, (I) one of whom shall represent a convention center

568 and sports arena trade organization, (J) one of whom shall represent a
569 charter bus trade organization, (K) two of whom shall represent casino
570 gaming facilities, and (L) one of whom shall represent the Connecticut
571 Tourism Coalition, (5) fourteen members appointed as follows: (A)
572 Three by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall
573 represent the agritourism industry, one of whom shall represent the
574 convention center and coliseum industry and one of whom shall
575 represent the eastern regional tourism district established pursuant to
576 section 10-397, (B) two by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
577 shall represent the events industry and one of whom shall represent the
578 western regional tourism district established pursuant to section 10-397,
579 (C) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall
580 represent the marine trades industry and one of whom shall represent
581 the outdoor recreation industry, (D) three by the speaker of the House
582 of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the destination
583 shopping industry, one of whom shall represent the restaurant industry
584 and one of whom shall represent the central regional tourism district
585 established pursuant to section 10-397, (E) two by the majority leader of
586 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall represent the
587 attractions industry and one of whom shall represent the lodging
588 industry, and (F) two by the minority leader of the House of
589 Representatives, one of whom shall represent the museum industry and
590 one of whom shall represent the tour and travel industry. All members
591 appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years. The terms
592 of all members appointed by members of the General Assembly shall be
593 coterminous with the terms of such members of the General Assembly.
594 Any member appointed pursuant to the provisions of this section who
595 fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the council or fails to attend
596 fifty per cent of all meetings of the council held during any calendar year
597 shall be deemed to have resigned. If a vacancy occurs as a result of such
598 a resignation, the appointing authority having the power to make the
599 initial appointment under the provisions of this section shall appoint a
600 person for the unexpired term in accordance with the provisions of this
601 section. If such vacancy is not filled within sixty calendar days, the
602 chairperson of the advisory board shall temporarily appoint a person to

603 fill the vacancy until the appointing authority makes an appointment.
604 The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall
605 serve as chairperson of the council.

606 (b) The council shall: (1) Adopt procedures for the operation of the
607 council; and (2) review and approve or recommend changes to the
608 strategic marketing plan developed by the Department of Economic and
609 Community Development pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b)
610 of section 10-392. [~~; and (3) not~~]

611 (c) Not later than [~~January 1, 2021~~] February 1, 2027, and annually
612 thereafter, the Commissioner of Economic and Community
613 Development shall submit a report describing tourism promotion
614 efforts by the state and evaluating the strategic marketing plan [~~,~~
615 developed by the Department of Economic and Community
616 Development pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-
617 392.] to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
618 cognizance of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the
619 provisions of section 11-4a.

620 Sec. 14. Subsection (g) of section 22a-200g of the 2026 supplement to
621 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
622 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

623 (g) Not later than February 15, 2026, and [~~biannually~~] biennially
624 thereafter, the council shall report on its work, findings and
625 recommendations to the Governor, the Office of Policy and
626 Management, and the joint standing committees of the General
627 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment,
628 energy and technology, higher education and commerce, in accordance
629 with the provisions of section 11-4a.

630 Sec. 15. Section 32-357 of the general statutes is repealed and the
631 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

632 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, in consultation with the
633 Department of Economic and Community Development and the

634 Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc., shall develop and
635 implement a plan to increase the total of funds provided to state
636 businesses pursuant to the small business innovation research program,
637 as defined in section 32-344, and the small business technology transfer
638 program, as defined in section 32-344. Not later than January 1, 2022,
639 [and annually thereafter,] the Commissioner of Economic and
640 Community Development shall report, in accordance with the
641 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
642 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
643 and veterans' and military affairs, regarding such plan and its
644 implementation.

645 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 32-39m of the general statutes is
646 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
647 *passage*):

648 (a) Through the innovation place program described in section 32-
649 39k, the commissioner may:

650 (1) Review and evaluate applications for innovation place
651 designation submitted by entities pursuant to section 32-39l.

652 (2) (A) Approve applications for innovation place designation and
653 designate such approved applications as an innovation place. Such
654 approval may include modifications to an application, agreed to by the
655 applicant, as a condition for approval thereof. If no such application
656 meets the purposes set forth in section 32-39k or the criteria set forth in
657 this subdivision, the commissioner shall not approve any application for
658 innovation place designation. Preference shall be given to applicants
659 having (i) diverse partners, including, but not limited to, anchor
660 institutions, (ii) partnerships with entities located within the proposed
661 innovation place, and (iii) substantial private funding for expenses
662 associated with the development of the proposed innovation place in
663 relation to the amount of grant moneys requested.

664 (B) Award grants-in-aid to innovation entities, within available
665 funds, for the allowable grant expenses set forth in an agreement

666 described in this subparagraph. Prior to awarding any such grant-in-
667 aid, the commissioner shall (i) enter into an agreement with any such
668 innovation entity concerning allowable grant expenses and the
669 submission of an annual financial audit of grant expenditures to the
670 commissioner until all grant moneys have been expended by the
671 innovation entity, provided any such audit shall be prepared by an
672 independent auditor; (ii) confirm that a significant portion of the
673 underlying zoning of the proposed innovation place allows for mixed-
674 use development, including, but not limited to, housing, office and
675 retail; and (iii) confirm that no portion of a grant-in-aid awarded to an
676 innovation entity be given to an entity that is not part of the master plan
677 for the innovation place. If the commissioner finds that any such grant-
678 in-aid awarded is being used for purposes that are not in conformity
679 with the expenses allowed pursuant to this section, the commissioner
680 may require repayment of such grant-in-aid.

681 (C) No application may be designated as an innovation place by the
682 commissioner unless such application (i) is consistent with the purposes
683 set forth in section 32-39k, (ii) is for a proposed innovation place where
684 a significant portion of such proposed innovation place is located in an
685 existing or proposed mixed-use zoning district, (iii) was prepared in
686 collaboration with the local chamber of commerce or other industry
687 association and the municipal economic development department, or
688 similar municipal authority, of the municipality in which the proposed
689 innovation place is located, and (iv) is approved by majority vote of the
690 legislative body of the municipality in which the proposed innovation
691 place is to be located.

692 (D) In determining whether to approve an application for innovation
693 place designation, the commissioner shall consider, but such
694 consideration shall not be limited to: (i) Whether the entities partnering
695 together to implement and administer the proposed master plan are of
696 the quality to, and have demonstrated the commitment to, implement
697 and administer the master plan in a manner sufficient to achieve the
698 purposes set forth in section 32-39k; (ii) whether the geography of the
699 proposed innovation place is sufficiently compact to achieve the

700 purposes set forth in section 32-39k; (iii) whether the master plan is
701 sufficient to achieve the purposes set forth in section 32-39k and whether
702 such plan includes (I) sufficient measures to ensure walkability of the
703 geographic areas within the municipality that make up the proposed
704 innovation place; (II) sufficient measures to enhance regular
705 interpersonal interactions among residents, workers and visitors of the
706 proposed innovation place; (III) adequate and accessible public
707 transportation; and (IV) existing or proposed restaurants, affordable
708 housing options, retail spaces and public spaces, indoor or outdoor, that
709 provide adequate opportunity for interpersonal interaction; (iv) the
710 extent to which the master plan leverages private investment; (v) self-
711 sustainability of the innovation place after moneys granted by the
712 commissioner are fully expended; (vi) whether the underlying zoning
713 of the proposed innovation place provides for, or will be amended to
714 provide for, reduced minimum floor area for residential dwelling units;
715 and (vii) any other criteria the commissioner determines is relevant for
716 evaluating whether the proposed innovation place, if granted
717 innovation place designation, will achieve the purposes set forth in
718 section 32-39k.

719 [(E) The commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions
720 of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
721 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and
722 finance, revenue and bonding on or before September thirtieth annually,
723 regarding the grants-in-aid distributed pursuant to this section and
724 concerning the operation and effectiveness of the innovation place
725 program.]

726 (3) Publicize and post on the department's Internet web site the
727 deadline for applications for innovation place designation pursuant to
728 section 32-39l.

729 Sec. 17. Subsection (e) of section 32-222 of the general statutes is
730 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
731 *passage*):

732 (e) "Economic cluster" means [an economic cluster, as defined in

733 section 32-4e] a grouping of industries linked together through
 734 customer, supplier or other relationships, recognized by the
 735 commissioner;

736 Sec. 18. Sections 32-4e and 32-4h of the general statutes are repealed.
 737 (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-1u
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	32-286(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	32-726
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	32-1m(a)(11)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	32-761
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	32-764(a)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	32-4r(e)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	32-7aa(f)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	38a-88a(c)(3)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	32-9aaa(b)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	32-7n
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	32-7o(n)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-397c
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200g(g)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	32-357
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	32-39m(a)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	32-222(e)
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer 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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill makes various changes related to the Department of Economic and Community Development, including its office designations, reporting requirements, and other minor changes. These changes are minor and technical in nature and therefore are not anticipated to result in an impact to the state.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 307*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE COMMERCE STATUTES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to Department of Community and Economic Development (DECD) statutes. It removes references to specific DECD offices (making DECD responsible generally for certain activities) and eliminates or delays certain reporting requirements. It also adds an absentee member policy for appointed members of the Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board and Connecticut Tourism Council. The bill also makes other minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1-6 — OFFICE DESIGNATIONS REMOVED

The bill removes references to specific offices within DECD and generally shifts the offices' responsibilities to the department or commissioner. Specifically, it removes references to the offices of Film, Television and Digital Media; Data Infrastructure Administration and Security; Permit Ombudsman; and Brownfield Remediation and Development.

The bill also removes a requirement that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Connecticut Innovations, Inc.; Office of Policy and Management (OPM); and Department of Public Health each designate a staff member as their liaison to work with the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development. By law and under the bill, these entities must enter a memorandum of understanding about their respective brownfield and remediation activities.

§§ 7-10 & 14-18 — REPORTING REQUIREMENTS MODIFIED

The bill eliminates annual reporting requirements for the following:

1. the Youth Service Corps grant program (gives certain municipalities grants to establish local Youth Service Programs that have paid, community-based service learning and academic and workforce development programs for eligible Connecticut youth and young adults) (current law requires DECD to report annually to the Children and Commerce committees);
2. Connecticut Innovation's plan to increase funding to state businesses under the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs (federal grant programs rewarding small business innovation) (current law requires DECD to report annually to the Commerce and Veterans' and Military Affairs committees); and
3. the innovation place program (a program that awards grants of up to \$50,000 to startups in certain municipalities with entrepreneurial and innovation potential and gives them access to support services, such as mentoring and coworking space) (current law requires DECD to report annually to the Commerce and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees).

The bill also eliminates Connecticut Innovations' annual report to DECD on economic cluster bond funds.

Additionally, the bill delays, from January 1 to February 1, the due date for the DECD commissioner's annual reports to the Commerce Committee for the:

1. makerspace program (a pilot program to give financial assistance to entities establishing or expanding makerspaces that could be models for self-sustaining makerspaces, which are generally community spaces for entrepreneurs) and
2. Invest CT Fund program (through which participants qualify for

tax credits against their insurance premiums and surplus lines broker taxes by investing in eligible businesses through state-certified Invest CT funds).

It also delays, from January 1 to February 1, the due date for the DECD commissioner's report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on the Good to Great program (a program to give grants to nonprofit organizations that own or operate cultural and historic sites in the state for capital improvements).

Lastly, the bill changes the reporting requirement for the Connecticut Clean Economy Council from twice per year (biannually) to every two years (biennially), beginning February 15, 2026. The council, established in 2025, advises on strategies and policies that strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs, particularly for vulnerable communities. It must report on its work, and any findings and recommendations, to the governor; OPM; and the Commerce, Energy and Technology, Environment, and Higher Education and Employment Advancement, committees.

§§ 11 & 12 — MANUFACTURING INNOVATION ADVISORY BOARD

The bill makes several changes to the Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board (which is responsible for the strategic direction of the Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) and the financial assistance application process for eligible recipients). The bill allows the board to consult any individual or entity to accomplish its purposes. It also expands the eligibility criteria for appointed members. Specifically, the bill allows for board members who:

1. have skill, knowledge, and experience in industries and science related to biotechnology, semiconductors, or clean energy production (in addition to aerospace, medical devices, digital manufacturing or communication, or advanced manufacturing, as under current law) or
2. are community college faculty or technical high school teachers in a related discipline (in addition to university faculty or

graduate degree holders, as under current law).

Absentee Member Procedure

The bill also requires that any appointed board member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or half of all meetings held in a calendar year be deemed to have resigned. The appointing authority must fill the resulting vacancy (1) in the same manner as the original appointment and (2) for the unexpired term of the member they are replacing. If the vacancy is not filled within 60 days, the board's chairperson must temporarily fill the vacancy until the appointing authority makes an appointment.

Reporting

The bill delays the due date, from January 1 to February 1, for DECD's annual report on the MIF to the advisory board. The bill also requires DECD (MIF's administrator) to submit the report, after advisory board approval, to the Commerce Committee. Current law requires the advisory board to submit the approved report.

§ 13 — CONNECTICUT TOURISM COUNCIL***Absentee Member Procedure***

The bill requires that any appointed member of the Connecticut Tourism Council who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or half of all meetings held in a calendar year be deemed to have resigned. The appointing authority must fill the resulting vacancy (1) in the same manner as the original appointment and (2) for the unexpired term of the member they are replacing. If the vacancy is not filled within 60 days, the council chairperson must temporarily fill the vacancy until the appointing authority makes an appointment.

By law, the Connecticut Tourism Council consults with DECD on the state's tourism promotion efforts, including the strategic marketing plan.

Reporting

The bill requires the DECD commissioner, rather than the council as

under current law, to annually submit to the Commerce Committee a report describing tourism promotion efforts in the state and evaluating the department's strategic marketing plan. It also delays the report's due date, from January 1 to February 1.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 1 (03/24/2026)