

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5467 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/10/2026

File No.: 332

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

CO - SPONSORS OF BILL:

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REASONS FOR BILL:

To address longstanding difficulties experienced by small businesses regarding access to information, this bill works to bridge the gap of knowledge of entrepreneurship across all residents in Connecticut, especially those owned by minorities and other socially or economically disadvantaged individuals in the state. This bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to appoint an individual to a position focused on providing concierge services to small businesses in Connecticut through the Office of Small Business Affairs.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

(AS SHOWN IN LCO 3323)

Changed language from "an employee of the Office of Small Businesses" to "an employee of the Department of Economic and Community Development" on lines 43- 44.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Economic and Community Development, Commissioner, Daniel O'Keefe](#) writes in support of this bill citing, an understanding of the importance in helping small businesses thrive. Through this bill there will be a designated employee focused on providing direct guidance in various aspects involved in the running of a small business.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[CBIA, Senior Policy Director, Pete Myers](#) submits testimony in support of this bill noting, that the implementation of this bill will be extremely beneficial to the small business community in Connecticut who often notes confusion when navigating operations in relation to the state. This bill will allow insight and lend further support regarding state grants, incentive programs, and economic development resources to small business ensuring that there is an opportunity to succeed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Anonymous 20](#) submits testimony in opposition of this bill citing, that it expands government and focus should instead be placed on affordability.

Reported by: Enumaah Dadzie, Assistant Clerk Date: 3/26/26