



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 5504***

LCO No. 4048



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND  
BONDING

Introduced by:  
(FIN)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF AN ENTERPRISE ZONE  
DESIGNATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 32-70 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (c) (1) On or before September 30, 1993, the Commissioner of  
5 Economic and Community Development shall approve the designation  
6 of ten areas as enterprise zones, not more than four of which shall be in  
7 municipalities with a population greater than eighty thousand and not  
8 more than six of which shall be in municipalities with a population of  
9 less than eighty thousand.

10 (2) (A) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner shall approve  
11 the designation of two areas as enterprise zones. Each such area shall be  
12 in a municipality with a population of less than eighty thousand, in  
13 which there are one or more base or plant closures. Such municipalities

14 shall be in different counties. If the commissioner approves the  
15 designation of an area of a municipality as an enterprise zone because  
16 of a plant closure in the municipality and there is a closure of another  
17 plant in any other municipality in the state by the same business, the  
18 commissioner shall also designate an area in such other municipality as  
19 an enterprise zone. If any such designated area includes a portion of a  
20 census tract in which any such base or plant is located, the census tracts  
21 in such area shall not be required to meet the eligibility criteria set forth  
22 under subsection (a) of this section for enterprise zone designation. If  
23 any such area is located elsewhere in the municipality, the census tracts  
24 in such area shall meet such eligibility criteria. As used in this  
25 subparagraph, (i) "base" means any United States or state of Connecticut  
26 military base or facility located in whole or in part within the state; (ii)  
27 "plant" means any manufacturing business or economic base business,  
28 as defined in section 32-222; and (iii) "closure" means any reduction or  
29 transfer in military personnel or civilian employment at one or more  
30 bases or plants in a municipality, which occurred between July 1, 1989,  
31 and July 1, 1993, or is scheduled to occur between July 1, 1993, and July  
32 1, 1996, and exceeds two thousand persons. Such employment figures  
33 shall be certified by the Labor Department.

34 (B) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner shall approve the  
35 designation of three other areas as enterprise zones, one of which shall  
36 be in a municipality with a population greater than eighty thousand and  
37 two of which shall be in municipalities with a population of less than  
38 eighty thousand. The census tracts in such areas shall meet the eligibility  
39 criteria set forth under subsection (a) of this section for enterprise zone  
40 designation. The commissioner shall approve the designation of  
41 enterprise zones under this subparagraph for those municipalities  
42 which he or she determines to have experienced the largest increases in  
43 poverty from October 1, 1989, to October 1, 1993, inclusive, based on a  
44 weighted average of the unemployment rate, caseload under the  
45 temporary family assistance program and per capita income of less than  
46 ninety per cent of the state average between 1985 and 1989. In making  
47 his determination, the commissioner may also consider the vacancy

48 rates for commercial and industrial facilities in a municipality and a  
49 municipality's program for the implementation of an effective  
50 enterprise zone program. To the extent appropriate, the commissioner  
51 shall use the Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) system in making  
52 the calculations for such determination.

53 (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
54 municipalities that were not distressed municipalities under the  
55 provisions of subsection (b) of section 32-9p on February 1, 1986, shall  
56 be eligible to designate areas as enterprise zones under subparagraph  
57 (A) or (B) of this subdivision.

58 (3) On or after July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall approve the  
59 designation of two areas as enterprise zones as follows: (A) One area  
60 shall be in a municipality with a population of not more than fifty  
61 thousand, as enumerated in the 2010 federal decennial census, and in  
62 which is located a United States Postal Service processing center that at  
63 any point in time employed one thousand or more persons, except that  
64 such area shall only be designated as an enterprise zone for a term of  
65 five years from the date any portion of the area is transferred, provided  
66 such transfer occurs on or after July 1, 2014, and (B) one area shall be in  
67 a municipality with a population of not less than seven thousand eight  
68 hundred and not more than seven thousand nine hundred, as  
69 enumerated in the 2010 federal decennial census, and having a total area  
70 of not more than 12.2 square miles. Each such enterprise zone area shall  
71 consist of two contiguous United States census tracts, contiguous  
72 portions of such census tracts or all or a portion of an individual census  
73 tract, as determined in accordance with the most recent federal  
74 decennial census and, if such area is covered by zoning, a portion of  
75 such area shall be zoned to allow commercial or industrial activity. The  
76 census tracts in each such enterprise zone area shall not be required to  
77 meet the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this section.  
78 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
79 municipalities that were not distressed municipalities under the  
80 provisions of subsection (b) of section 32-9p on February 1, 1986, shall

81 be eligible to designate areas as enterprise zones under this subdivision.

82 (4) (A) The commissioner shall not approve the designation of more  
83 than one enterprise zone in any municipality. The commissioner shall  
84 adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 concerning such  
85 additional qualifications for an area to become an enterprise zone as he  
86 or she deems necessary.

87 (B) The commissioner may remove the designation of any area he or  
88 she has approved as an enterprise zone if such area no longer meets the  
89 criteria for designation as such an area set forth in this section or in  
90 regulations adopted pursuant to this section, [provided] except that no  
91 such designation shall be removed (i) less than ten years from the  
92 original date of approval of such zone, or (ii) if the number of residents  
93 in such area with income below the poverty level, as determined by the  
94 most recent United States census, has not been reduced by at least  
95 seventy-five per cent from the original date of approval of such zone.

96 (C) The commissioner may designate any additional area as an  
97 enterprise zone if that area is designated as an enterprise zone,  
98 empowerment zone or enterprise community pursuant to any federal  
99 legislation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	32-70(c)

**FIN** Joint Favorable