



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 570

LCO No. 6167



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING OPPORTUNITY ZONES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Economic
2 and Community Development shall, not later than January 1, 2020,
3 collaborate with local, private and civic partners to host a series of not
4 less than five regional events in the state advertising the state's
5 federally designated opportunity zones.

6 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Economic and
7 Community Development shall conduct a study relating to the federal
8 opportunity zone program, established pursuant to the Tax Cuts and
9 Jobs Act of 2017, P.L. 115-97, and how the state may incentivize the use
10 of such program in the state. Such study shall: (1) Identify corporations
11 and other beneficiaries of capital gains within the state to develop a
12 strategy that focuses such corporations and other beneficiaries'
13 qualified opportunity fund investments locally and encourages a
14 cycling of capital within the state; (2) identify existing state incentive
15 programs that may be used in conjunction with opportunity zone
16 benefits; (3) identify existing incentives for businesses participating in

17 the small business express program to move to opportunity zones and
18 recommend additional incentives, including, but not limited to,
19 reducing the amount of time a business is required to be in business to
20 qualify for a grant and increasing the grant amount for every job
21 created; (4) develop a plan to issue bonds of the state for the purpose
22 of providing low-interest loans to investors who develop mixed-
23 income housing in the state's opportunity zones; and (5) recommend
24 incentives for investors to develop mixed-income housing that utilizes
25 solar power or other renewable energy sources in the state's
26 opportunity zones. Not later than February 1, 2020, the commissioner
27 shall submit a report on the results of such study, including
28 recommendations for any requisite legislative proposals, to the joint
29 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
30 matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of
31 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

32 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 32-726 of the
33 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
34 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

35 (b) (1) The commissioner shall establish an office of the permit
36 ombudsman for the purpose of expediting review of permit
37 applications for projects that would (A) create at least one hundred
38 jobs, (B) create fifty jobs, if such project is to be located in an enterprise
39 zone designated pursuant to section 32-70, (C) be located in a
40 brownfield, as defined in section 32-760, (D) be compatible with the
41 state's responsible growth initiatives, (E) be considered transit-oriented
42 development, as defined in section 13b-79kk, (F) develop green
43 technology business, (G) develop bioscience business, (H) develop any
44 of the state's federally designated opportunity zones, or [(H)] (I) meet
45 the criteria set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection. Projects
46 ineligible for review under this section are projects for which the
47 primary purpose is to (i) effect the final disposal of solid waste,
48 biomedical waste or hazardous waste in this state, (ii) produce
49 electrical power, unless the production of electricity is incidental and

50 not the primary function of the project, (iii) extract natural resources,
51 (iv) produce oil, or (v) construct, maintain or operate an oil, petroleum,
52 natural gas or sewage pipeline. For purposes of this section,
53 "responsible growth initiatives" includes the principles of smart
54 growth, as defined in section 1 of public act 09-230, and "green
55 technology business" means an eligible business with not less than
56 twenty-five per cent of its employment positions being positions in
57 which green technology is employed or developed and may include
58 the occupation codes identified as green jobs by the Department of
59 Economic and Community Development and the Labor Department
60 for such purposes. The permit ombudsman shall also assist and
61 provide guidance to bioscience businesses seeking to expedite the
62 review and approval of permits required by local zoning authorities.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2019</i> | 32-726(b)(1) |

CE *Joint Favorable*