



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 456**

LCO No. 3486



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:  
(FIN)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TEN-YEAR PLANS TO ERADICATE CONCENTRATED POVERTY IN THE STATE.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) It is hereby declared that  
2 there exists a concentrated poverty crisis in the state that exacts a critical  
3 toll on poor and nonpoor residents of communities that house areas of  
4 concentrated poverty, which create lifelong and persistent  
5 disadvantages across generations by lowering the quality of educational  
6 and employment opportunities, limiting health care access and  
7 diminishing health outcomes, increasing exposure to crime, reducing  
8 available choices for affordable and properly maintained housing and  
9 imposing obstacles to wealth-building and economic mobility. It is  
10 further declared that the development and implementation of the ten-  
11 year plans under this section to eradicate concentrated poverty in the  
12 state are necessary and for the public benefit, as a matter of legislative  
13 determination.

14 (b) There is established an Office of Neighborhood Investment and

15 Community Engagement within the Department of Economic and  
16 Community Development. Said office shall have a staff dedicated  
17 exclusively to carry out the provisions of this section, oversee the  
18 implementation of the ten-year plans developed pursuant to this  
19 subsection, monitor the state's progress in reducing concentrated  
20 poverty in the state and serve as the facilitator to coordinate  
21 communication between the various parties and disseminate  
22 information in a timely and efficient manner.

23 (1) (A) Said office shall develop a plan for each concentrated poverty  
24 census tract to eradicate, over ten years, the levels of concentrated  
25 poverty in the state, evidenced by a reduction, to twenty per cent or  
26 lower, in the percentage of households who reside in a concentrated  
27 poverty census tract and have incomes below the federal poverty level,  
28 as well as sustained improvements in community infrastructure and  
29 other underlying conditions that serve to prolong concentrated poverty  
30 and economic inertia in such census tracts. In developing such plan, said  
31 office shall consult with the Office of Community Development  
32 Assistance established under section 32-7s of the general statutes, as  
33 amended by this act, the Office of Workforce Strategy established under  
34 section 4-124w of the general statutes, the Office of Early Childhood, the  
35 Department of Education, the Office of Policy and Management, the  
36 municipal chief elected officials and community development  
37 corporations set forth in subsection (c) of this section and any other  
38 public or private entity the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
39 Development deems relevant or necessary to achieving the purposes of  
40 this subsection. As used in this section, "concentrated poverty census  
41 tract" means a census tract identified as a high poverty-low opportunity  
42 census tract, as of January 1, 2024, by the Office of Policy and  
43 Management pursuant to section 101 of public act 23-205.

44 (B) Each ten-year plan shall include, but need not be limited to, (i)  
45 measurable steps to be taken for its implementation, the target date by  
46 which each such step is to be completed and the state or municipal  
47 official or state or municipal agency, department or division responsible  
48 for each such step, (ii) minimum state-wide averages for educational

49 metrics, including, but not limited to, kindergarten-readiness, grade  
50 level reading and mathematics and college-readiness or career-  
51 readiness, to be used as benchmarks for improvements in each  
52 concentrated poverty census tract, and (iii) the list of possible projects  
53 determined pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

54 (C) On or before June 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Economic and  
55 Community Development shall inform the joint standing committee of  
56 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance,  
57 revenue and bonding, in writing, of the progress made to date in the  
58 development of each ten-year plan. Not later than January 1, 2026, said  
59 commissioner shall submit all such plans to the General Assembly, in  
60 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

61 (2) (A) Each municipality in which at least one concentrated poverty  
62 census tract has been identified as of January 1, 2024, shall assist  
63 community members to establish a community development  
64 corporation pursuant to the provisions of section 32-7s of the general  
65 statutes, as amended by this act, to assist such municipality in carrying  
66 out such municipality's responsibilities under this section and the ten-  
67 year plan for such census tract.

68 (B) The Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community  
69 Engagement shall, jointly with the chief elected official of each such  
70 municipality and the community development corporation established  
71 to assist such municipality, develop a list of possible projects that will  
72 be included in the ten-year plan for each concentrated poverty census  
73 tract located in such municipality. Said office, official and corporation  
74 shall (i) determine the types of projects they deem to be the most  
75 appropriate and effective for such census tract to eradicate concentrated  
76 poverty within such census tract, including, but not limited to, capital  
77 projects, workforce development programs, housing development,  
78 community and neighborhood improvements and education initiatives  
79 to assist and support residents in meeting and surpassing the  
80 educational metrics described in subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision (1)  
81 of subsection (b) of this section, and (ii) take into account the criteria for

82 projects eligible for grants under sections 32-7s of the general statutes,  
83 as amended by this act, 32-7x of the general statutes, as amended by this  
84 act, and 32-285a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

85 (3) Not later than February 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
86 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit  
87 a report to the General Assembly, the Office of Workforce Strategy, the  
88 Office of Early Childhood and the Office of Policy and Management, in  
89 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
90 that summarizes the progress being made by the Office of  
91 Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement in  
92 implementing each of the ten-year plans, the status of any projects  
93 pending or undertaken for each concentrated poverty census tract and  
94 any other information the commissioner or the Office of Neighborhood  
95 Investment and Community Engagement deems relevant or necessary.

96 (c) If any state or municipal official responsible for carrying out a  
97 requirement or responsibility under the provisions of this section or a  
98 ten-year plan fails to do so in a timely manner, any resident of a  
99 concentrated poverty census tract who is aggrieved by such failure may  
100 bring an action against such official in the superior court for the judicial  
101 district in which such census tract is located for a writ of mandamus to  
102 compel such official to carry out such requirement or responsibility.

103 Sec. 2. Section 32-7s of the general statutes is repealed and the  
104 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

105 (a) As used in this section:

106 (1) "Certified community development corporation" means an  
107 organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the  
108 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding  
109 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to  
110 time, that (A) focuses a substantial majority of the community  
111 development corporation's efforts on serving one or more target areas,  
112 (B) has as its purpose to engage local residents and businesses to work  
113 together to undertake community development programs, projects and

114 activities that develop and improve urban communities in sustainable  
115 ways that create and expand economic opportunities for low and  
116 moderate-income people, (C) demonstrates to the Office of Community  
117 Economic Development Assistance established under subsection (b) of  
118 this section that the community development corporation's  
119 constituency is meaningfully represented on the board of directors of  
120 such community development corporation, through (i) the percentage  
121 of the board members who are residents of a target area or a community  
122 that such community development corporation serves or seeks to serve,  
123 (ii) the percentage of board members who are low or moderate-income,  
124 (iii) the racial and ethnic composition of the board in comparison to the  
125 racial and ethnic composition of the community such community  
126 development corporation serves or seeks to serve, or (iv) the use of  
127 mechanisms such as committees or membership meetings that the  
128 community development corporation uses to ensure that its  
129 constituency has a meaningful role in the governance and direction of  
130 the community development corporation, and (D) is certified by the  
131 Office of Community Economic Development Assistance pursuant to  
132 this section;

133 (2) "Department" means the Department of Economic and  
134 Community Development; and

135 (3) "Target area" means a contiguous geographic area in which the  
136 current unemployment rate exceeds the state unemployment rate by at  
137 least twenty-five per cent or in which the mean household income is at  
138 or below eighty per cent of the state mean household income, as  
139 determined by the most recent decennial census.

140 (b) (1) There is established an Office of Community Economic  
141 Development Assistance within the Department of Economic and  
142 Community Development. The office shall, within available  
143 appropriations, (A) provide assistance to organizations seeking to  
144 establish themselves or be certified as a community development  
145 corporation in the state, (B) provide grants to certified community  
146 development corporations for projects to be undertaken in a target area,

147 (C) serve as the liaison between community development corporations  
148 and investors seeking to invest funds in such community development  
149 corporations and provide assistance in soliciting investment funds for  
150 such community development corporations, and (D) seek to ensure  
151 coordinated, efficient and timely responses to such organizations,  
152 community development corporations and investors.

153 (2) The office shall identify eligible target areas in the state and post  
154 such target areas on the department's Internet web site.

155 (c) (1) Any organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3)  
156 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding  
157 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to  
158 time, may apply to the Office of Community Economic Development  
159 Assistance to establish itself as or be certified as a community  
160 development corporation in the state. The office shall prescribe the form  
161 and manner of such application.

162 (2) (A) Any existing community development corporation that  
163 operates or seeks to operate in the state may apply to the office to be  
164 certified. The office shall certify any community development  
165 corporation that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of said  
166 Internal Revenue Code and meets the requirements set forth in  
167 subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (a)  
168 of this section. Each community development corporation that is  
169 established pursuant to this subsection shall be deemed to be certified.

170 (B) The office shall maintain a current list of certified community  
171 development corporations and shall post such list on the Internet web  
172 site of the department.

173 (3) The Office of Community Economic Development Assistance  
174 shall establish a grant program for projects to be undertaken by a  
175 certified community development corporation in a target area,  
176 provided, on and after the date the ten-year plans developed under  
177 section 1 of this act are submitted to the General Assembly, the office  
178 shall give priority to projects included in such plans. Such projects shall

179 include, but not be limited to, infrastructure improvements, housing  
180 rehabilitation, streetscape improvements and facade improvements for  
181 businesses. The office shall establish the application form and process  
182 for such grant program, the criteria for eligible projects and for  
183 awarding grants and any caps or limits on the amount or number of  
184 grants awarded. The office shall post information concerning the grant  
185 program on the department's Internet web site.

186 (d) (1) For the purposes described in subdivision (2) of this  
187 subsection, the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time  
188 to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more  
189 series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate fifty  
190 million dollars.

191 (2) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount  
192 stated in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be used by the  
193 Department of Economic and Community Development for the  
194 purposes of carrying out the duties of the Office of Community  
195 Economic Development Assistance under subsection (b) of this section  
196 and the grant program under subsection (c) of this section.

197 (3) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power  
198 granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this  
199 section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by  
200 the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes  
201 in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such  
202 bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with section 3-20 and  
203 from time to time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or  
204 times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be  
205 provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State  
206 Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be  
207 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
208 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
209 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
210 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
211 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall

212 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
213 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
214 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
215 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
216 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
217 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay  
218 such principal and interest as the same become due.

219 (e) Not later than July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Office of  
220 Community Economic Development Assistance shall submit a report,  
221 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
222 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
223 relating to commerce, planning and development and finance, revenue  
224 and bonding. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, a  
225 description of the activities undertaken by the office in the preceding  
226 fiscal year, the number of community development corporations  
227 established and certified in the preceding fiscal year, the number and  
228 amounts of grants awarded to certified community development  
229 corporations in the preceding fiscal year and a description and the  
230 locations of the projects undertaken by certified community  
231 development corporations in the preceding fiscal year.

232 Sec. 3. Section 32-7x of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is  
233 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
234 *passage*):

235 (a) As used in this section, ["high poverty-low opportunity census  
236 tract"] "concentrated poverty census tract" means a United States census  
237 tract in which thirty per cent or more of the [residents] households  
238 within such census tract have incomes below the federal poverty level,  
239 according to the most recent five-year United States Census Bureau  
240 American Community Survey.

241 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
242 compile a list of [high poverty-low opportunity] concentrated poverty  
243 census tracts in the state and the municipalities in which such census



244 tracts are located and shall, not later than July 31, 2023, submit such list  
245 to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of section  
246 11-4a. The secretary shall post such list to the Internet web site of the  
247 Office of Policy and Management and shall review and update such list  
248 as necessary. Whenever the secretary updates such list, the secretary  
249 shall submit such updated list to the General Assembly in accordance  
250 with the provisions of section 11-4a.

251 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
252 shall establish a grant program to fund eligible projects within [high  
253 poverty-low opportunity] concentrated poverty census tracts. An  
254 eligible project shall seek to reduce concentrated poverty within such  
255 tracts and the effects of such poverty, including, but not limited to, the  
256 lower lifetime income of residents within such tracts, the lower lifetime  
257 income expectations of future generations within such tracts, increased  
258 crime and risk of incarceration for residents within such tracts and  
259 educational deficiencies within such tracts. An eligible project includes:

260 (A) Construction, renovation or rehabilitation of mixed-income rental  
261 housing and owner-occupied housing, in order to retain individuals and  
262 families of different income levels and to increase the percentage of  
263 owner-occupied housing within such census tract or tracts;

264 (B) The establishment or improvement of workforce development  
265 programs, including, but not limited to, programs that partner with  
266 organizations to identify unemployed or underemployed individuals  
267 and at-risk youth residing in such census tracts, identify workforce  
268 training opportunities and other resources for such individuals and link  
269 such individuals with the appropriate training and resources that will  
270 increase the skills and earning potential of such individuals; and

271 (C) Construction, renovation or rehabilitation of public  
272 infrastructure, in order to support and improve the private investment  
273 opportunities, quality of life and public safety within such census tract  
274 or tracts.

275 (2) Beginning on January 1, 2024, and not later than January 1, 2030,

276 each municipality in which a [high poverty-low opportunity]  
277 concentrated poverty census tract is located may apply to the  
278 commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner,  
279 to receive a grant for an eligible project or any combination of eligible  
280 projects. An application may target one [high poverty-low opportunity]  
281 concentrated poverty census tract or more than one such census tract if  
282 such census tracts are geographically contiguous or within reasonable  
283 proximity of each other. An applicant shall not be prohibited from filing  
284 more than one application for different [high poverty-low opportunity]  
285 concentrated poverty census tracts or groups of such census tracts.

286 (d) (1) Not later than January 1, 2024, the commissioner shall establish  
287 criteria for the awarding of grants as described in subdivision (2) of this  
288 subsection, requirements for documents and information as described  
289 in subdivision [(3)] (4) of this subsection and deadlines for submitting  
290 applications and revised and modified applications under subsection (e)  
291 of this section. The commissioner shall post such criteria, requirements  
292 and deadlines on the Internet web site of the Department of Economic  
293 and Community Development, notify each municipality in which a  
294 [high poverty-low opportunity] concentrated poverty census tract is  
295 located of such posting and promote the availability of the grant  
296 program established by this section in each [high poverty-low  
297 opportunity] such census tract.

298 (2) Criteria for the awarding of grants pursuant to this section shall  
299 include, but need not be limited to:

300 (A) The likelihood that a proposal will reduce adult or child poverty  
301 within a [high poverty-low opportunity] concentrated poverty census  
302 tract;

303 (B) The likelihood that a proposal will reduce the likelihood that  
304 children currently residing within a [high poverty-low opportunity]  
305 concentrated poverty census tract will live in poverty after reaching  
306 adulthood;

307 (C) The likelihood that a proposal will produce persistent and

308 meaningful improvements in residents' wealth, financial security,  
309 employability or quality of life beyond the duration of the proposal;

310 (D) The feasibility of the initiatives in a proposal and the  
311 demonstrated or perceived capacity to execute upon the scope of work  
312 in a proposal, including, but not limited to, adequate staffing levels of  
313 entities involved with the proposal; and

314 (E) The interconnectivity and mutual reinforcement among all  
315 proposed initiatives in the same [high poverty-low opportunity]  
316 concentrated poverty census tract area or areas, such as providing  
317 workforce training programs to parents of children enrolled in a  
318 supported early childhood program.

319 (3) On and after the date the ten-year plans developed under section  
320 1 of this act are submitted to the General Assembly, priority shall be  
321 given to projects included in such plan.

322 [(3)] (4) Requirements for documents and information to be  
323 submitted by municipalities to evaluate applications shall include, but  
324 need not be limited to:

325 (A) A description of how the proposal intends to address each type  
326 of eligible project described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of  
327 subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, and whether there are  
328 existing projects or programs to address such eligible projects;

329 (B) A description of each initiative within the proposal, which may  
330 include multiple simultaneous initiatives, and how each initiative will  
331 meet one of the criteria established pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
332 subsection;

333 (C) A description of sufficient efforts, as determined by the  
334 commissioner, to engage residents of the [high poverty-low  
335 opportunity] concentrated poverty census tract in formulating a  
336 proposal;

337 (D) For an initiative that is an eligible project described in

338 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, a  
339 description of the municipality's consultations with the regional  
340 workforce development board that serves the municipality regarding  
341 the development of such project and efforts to coordinate such project  
342 with the board's activities;

343 (E) A description of each organization that will participate in an  
344 eligible project described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of  
345 subsection (c) of this section, and information on each organization's  
346 commitment to provide continuous, sustained engagement with  
347 residents of such tract throughout the project;

348 (F) A description of the entity or organization responsible for  
349 coordinating the implementation of each component of the application  
350 and overseeing the various projects and programs outlined in such  
351 application;

352 (G) A description of plans for ongoing engagement with residents of  
353 such census tracts and solicitation of feedback on the progress of a  
354 proposal during its implementation; and

355 (H) A description of plans to provide residents of such census tract  
356 with opportunities to become involved in implementation of a proposal.

357 (e) (1) The department shall review and evaluate each application  
358 submitted and shall work with the applicant municipality to revise the  
359 application if the department believes such revisions will improve or  
360 strengthen the application. The department shall assist an applicant in  
361 identifying and applying for funding under other programs in order to  
362 maximize the amount of funding available for an applicant, including  
363 seeking funding under section 4-66c. For a proposal for an eligible  
364 project described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection  
365 (c) of this section, the commissioner shall evaluate such project in  
366 consultation with the Commissioner of Housing and the Commissioner  
367 of Housing shall assist the applicant with obtaining funding for such  
368 project through programs operated by the Department of Housing.

369 (2) The commissioner shall submit to the Governor all applications  
370 that are deemed to satisfy the requirements of subsection (d) of this  
371 section. The Governor shall review such applications and may approve  
372 or disapprove an application or return an application to the  
373 commissioner for modifications. If an application is returned to the  
374 commissioner, the commissioner shall work with the applicant to  
375 modify the application and shall resubmit such application with  
376 modifications to the Governor. If the Governor approves an application,  
377 the Governor shall make a grant award from bond proceeds under  
378 section 32-7y, provided the Governor may use funds from other bond  
379 proceeds authorized for the general purposes described in  
380 subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (c)  
381 of this section for such grants. Grants awarded under this section shall  
382 be for a period of three years, and in an amount sufficient to carry out  
383 the objectives of the application, but not less than five hundred  
384 thousand dollars. Each application that the Governor approves shall be  
385 considered at a State Bond Commission meeting not later than two  
386 months after the date the application was approved by the Governor.

387 (f) At the conclusion of the initial grant period, the commissioner  
388 shall evaluate the municipality's progress toward reducing the number  
389 of [residents] households within the applicable [high poverty-low  
390 opportunity] concentrated poverty census tract who have incomes  
391 below the federal poverty level to less than thirty per cent of the  
392 [residents] households of such census tract. Such evaluation shall  
393 consider, among other factors, any change in the percentage of  
394 [residents] households within such census tract who have incomes  
395 below the federal poverty level, and whether the actions taken pursuant  
396 to such grant during the initial grant period: (1) May reasonably result  
397 in a future reduction in the percentage of [residents] households within  
398 such census tract who have incomes below the federal poverty level, (2)  
399 have resulted in a reduction in child poverty within such census tract,  
400 (3) may reasonably result in a future reduction in child poverty within  
401 such census tract, or (4) may reasonably decrease the likelihood that  
402 children who are currently living within such census tract will have

403 incomes below the federal poverty level after they reach adulthood.  
404 Upon a determination by the commissioner that reasonable progress has  
405 been made, the municipality shall be eligible for subsequent grants  
406 under this section, provided, at the conclusion of each subsequent grant  
407 period of three years, each applicant municipality shall be subject to an  
408 evaluation and determination under this subsection prior to being  
409 eligible to apply for a subsequent grant. An application for a subsequent  
410 grant and the awarding of a subsequent grant shall be in accordance  
411 with the provisions of subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

412 (g) Not later than August 1, 2024, and annually thereafter until and  
413 including August 1, 2029, the commissioner shall submit a report, in  
414 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the General  
415 Assembly, that includes the municipalities that submitted applications  
416 and that were awarded grants under this section in the prior fiscal year,  
417 a description of each purpose and eligible project a municipality  
418 awarded a grant under this section is seeking to accomplish or  
419 undertaking, a progress report, if applicable, for each such purpose or  
420 eligible project and any other information the commissioner deems  
421 relevant.

422 Sec. 4. Section 32-285a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
423 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
424 *passage*):

425 (a) As used in this section:

426 (1) "Administrative costs" means the costs paid or incurred by the  
427 administrator of the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board  
428 established under subsection (b) of this section, including, but not  
429 limited to, allocated staff costs and other out-of-pocket costs attributable  
430 to the administration and operation of the board;

431 (2) "Administrator" means the Commissioner of Economic and  
432 Community Development, or the commissioner's designee;

433 (3) "Eligible project" means:

434 (A) (i) A project proposed by a municipality, community  
435 development corporation or nonprofit organization, for the purpose of  
436 promoting economic or community development in the municipality or  
437 a municipality served by such corporation or organization, such as  
438 brownfield remediation, affordable housing, establishment of or  
439 improvements to water and sewer infrastructure to support smaller  
440 scale economic development, pedestrian safety and traffic calming  
441 improvements, establishment of or improvements to energy resiliency  
442 or clean energy projects and land acquisition and capital projects to  
443 construct, rehabilitate or renovate buildings and structures to facilitate  
444 or improve home rehabilitation programs and facilities such as libraries  
445 and senior centers; or

446 (ii) A grant-in-aid proposed by a municipality, community  
447 development corporation or nonprofit organization for the purpose of  
448 providing (I) a revolving loan program, microloans or gap financing, to  
449 small businesses located within such municipality or a municipality  
450 served by such corporation or organization, or (II) start-up funds to  
451 establish a small business in any such municipality; and

452 (B) Such project or grant-in-aid furthers consistent and systematic  
453 fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including  
454 individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities  
455 that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino and  
456 indigenous and Native American persons; Asian Americans and Pacific  
457 Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities;  
458 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons and other persons  
459 comprising the LGBTQ+ community; persons who live in rural areas;  
460 and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or  
461 inequality; and

462 (4) "Municipality" means a municipality designated as a public  
463 investment community pursuant to section 7-545 or as an alliance  
464 district pursuant to section 10-262u.

465 (b) (1) There is established a Community Investment Fund 2030

466 Board, which shall be within the Department of Economic and  
467 Community Development. The board shall consist of the following  
468 members:

469 (A) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
470 pro tempore of the Senate;

471 (B) The majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority  
472 leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives  
473 and the minority leader of the Senate;

474 (C) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives  
475 and one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, each of  
476 whom shall be a member of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the  
477 General Assembly;

478 (D) The two chairpersons of the general bonding subcommittee of the  
479 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
480 matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding;

481 (E) Two appointed by the Governor; and

482 (F) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the  
483 Attorney General, the Treasurer, the Comptroller, the Secretary of the  
484 State and the Commissioners of Economic and Community  
485 Development, Administrative Services, Social Services and Housing, or  
486 their designees.

487 (2) All initial appointments shall be made not later than sixty days  
488 after June 30, 2021. The terms of the members appointed by the  
489 Governor shall be coterminous with the term of the Governor or until  
490 their successors are appointed, whichever is later. Any vacancy in  
491 appointments shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy  
492 occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance  
493 of the unexpired term.

494 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, it shall not  
495 constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner, officer,



496 stockholder, proprietor, counsel or employee of any person to serve as  
497 a member of the board, provided such trustee, director, partner, officer,  
498 stockholder, proprietor, counsel or employee abstains and absents  
499 himself or herself from any deliberation, action and vote by the board in  
500 specific respect to such person. The members appointed by the  
501 Governor shall be deemed public officials and shall adhere to the code  
502 of ethics for public officials set forth in chapter 10.

503 (4) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
504 tempore of the Senate shall serve as the chairpersons of the board and  
505 shall schedule the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not  
506 later than January 1, 2022. The board shall meet at least quarterly.

507 (5) Eleven members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the  
508 transaction of any business.

509 (6) The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but  
510 shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses  
511 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

512 (7) The board shall have the following powers and duties: (A) Review  
513 eligible projects to be recommended to the Governor under subsection  
514 (c) of this section for approval; (B) establish bylaws to govern its  
515 procedures; (C) review and provide comments to the Department of  
516 Economic and Community Development on projects funded through  
517 the state's Economic Action Plan as provided under section 32-4p; and  
518 (D) perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to  
519 carry out its duties described in this section.

520 (8) The administrator shall hire such employee or employees as may  
521 be necessary to assist the board to carry out its duties described in this  
522 section.

523 (c) (1) The Community Investment Fund 2030 Board shall establish  
524 an application and review process with guidelines and terms for funds  
525 provided from the bond proceeds under subsection (d) of this section  
526 for eligible projects. Such funds shall be used for costs related to an

527 eligible project recommended by the board and approved by the  
528 Governor pursuant to this subsection but shall not be used to pay or to  
529 reimburse the administrator for administrative costs under this section.  
530 The Department of Economic and Community Development shall pay  
531 for administrative costs within available appropriations.

532 (2) The chairpersons of the board shall notify the chief elected official  
533 of each municipality when the application and review process has been  
534 established and shall publicize the availability of any funds available  
535 under this section. Each such official or any community development  
536 corporation or nonprofit organization may submit an application to the  
537 board requesting funds for an eligible project. The board shall meet to  
538 consider applications submitted and determine which, if any, the board  
539 will recommend to the Governor for approval.

540 (3) (A) The board shall give priority to eligible projects (i) that are  
541 proposed by a municipality that (I) has implemented local hiring  
542 preferences pursuant to section 7-112, or (II) has or will leverage  
543 municipal, private, philanthropic or federal funds for such project, [and]  
544 (ii) that have a project labor agreement or employ or will employ ex-  
545 offenders or individuals with physical, intellectual or developmental  
546 disabilities, and (iii) on and after the date the ten-year plans developed  
547 under section 1 of this act are submitted to the General Assembly, that  
548 are included in such plans. The board shall give additional priority to  
549 an application submitted by a municipality that includes a letter of  
550 support for the proposed eligible project from a member or members of  
551 the General Assembly in whose district the eligible project is or will be  
552 located.

553 (B) In evaluating applications for an eligible project described in  
554 subparagraph (A)(ii) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section,  
555 the board shall (i) evaluate the risk of default on the repayment of a  
556 proposed loan or financing, (ii) consider the impact of the eligible  
557 project on job creation or retention in the municipality, (iii) consider the  
558 impact of the eligible project on blighted properties in the municipality,  
559 and (iv) consider the overall impact of the eligible project on the

560 community. The board shall not recommend any proposed loan or  
561 financing under subparagraph (A)(ii) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a)  
562 of this section for which the interest rate varies from the prevailing  
563 market rate.

564 (4) (A) Whenever the board deems it necessary or desirable, the  
565 chairpersons of the board shall submit to the Governor a list of the  
566 board's recommendations of eligible projects to be funded from bond  
567 proceeds under subsection (d) of this section. The board may  
568 recommend state funding for eligible projects, provided the total cost of  
569 such recommendations shall not exceed one hundred seventy-five  
570 million dollars in any fiscal year. Such list shall include, at a minimum:

571 (i) For each eligible project described in subparagraph (A)(i) of  
572 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, a description of such  
573 project, the municipality in which such project is located, the amount of  
574 funds sought for such project, any cost estimates for such project, any  
575 schematics or plans for such project, the total estimated project costs and  
576 the applicable fiscal year to which such disbursement will be attributed;  
577 and

578 (ii) For each eligible project described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of  
579 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, a description of and  
580 specific terms for any proposed loans, financing or start-up funds to be  
581 provided from such grant-in-aid, the types of small businesses located  
582 or to be located in the municipality that may be eligible for such loan,  
583 financing or start-up funds, the amount of the grant-in-aid sought and  
584 the applicable fiscal year to which such disbursement will be attributed.

585 (B) The Governor shall review the eligible projects on the list and may  
586 recommend changes to any eligible project on the list. The Governor  
587 shall determine the most appropriate method of funding for each  
588 eligible project and shall provide to the members of the board, in  
589 writing, such determination for each eligible project on the list and the  
590 reasons therefor. The board may reconsider at a future meeting any  
591 eligible project for which the Governor recommends a change. Each

592 eligible project for which the Governor recommends the allocation of  
593 bond funds shall be considered at a State Bond Commission meeting not  
594 later than two months after the date such eligible project was submitted  
595 to the Governor pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

596 (5) Funds for an eligible project approved under this section may be  
597 administered on behalf of the board by a state agency, as determined by  
598 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, provided a  
599 memorandum of understanding between the administrator of the  
600 Community Investment Fund 2030 Board and the state, acting by and  
601 through the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, has been  
602 entered into with respect to such funds and project.

603 (6) Not later than August 31, 2023, the board shall submit a report, in  
604 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the General  
605 Assembly, the Black and Puerto Rican caucus of the General Assembly,  
606 the Auditors of Public Accounts and the Governor, for the preceding  
607 fiscal year, that includes (A) a list of the eligible projects recommended  
608 by the board and approved by the Governor pursuant to this section, (B)  
609 the total amount of funds provided for such eligible projects, (C) for  
610 each such eligible project, a description of the project and the amounts  
611 and terms of the funds provided, (D) the status of the project and any  
612 balance remaining of the allocated funds, and (E) any other information  
613 the board deems relevant or necessary. The board shall submit such  
614 report annually for each fiscal year in which the funds specified in  
615 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of this subsection are disbursed for  
616 eligible projects.

617 (7) The Auditors of Public Accounts shall audit, on a biennial basis,  
618 all eligible projects funded under this section and shall report their  
619 findings to the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
620 Management and the General Assembly.

621 (d) (1) The State Bond Commission may authorize the issuance of  
622 bonds of the state, in accordance with the provisions of section 3-20, in  
623 principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate eight hundred

624 seventy-five million dollars. The amount authorized for the issuance  
625 and sale of such bonds in each of the following fiscal years shall not  
626 exceed the following corresponding amount for each such fiscal year,  
627 except that, to the extent the State Bond Commission does not provide  
628 for the use of all or a portion of such amount in any such fiscal year,  
629 such amount not provided for shall be carried forward and added to the  
630 authorized amount for the next succeeding fiscal year, and provided  
631 further, the costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any, may be  
632 added to the capped amount in each fiscal year, and each of the  
633 authorized amounts shall be effective on July first of the fiscal year  
634 indicated as follows:

T1	Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Amount
T2	2023	\$175,000,000
T3	2024	175,000,000
T4	2025	175,000,000
T5	2026	175,000,000
T6	2027	175,000,000
T7	Total	\$875,000,000

635 (2) The proceeds of the sale of bonds set forth in this subsection shall  
636 be used for the purpose of funding eligible projects for which the  
637 Governor has determined under subsection (c) of this section that bond  
638 funding is appropriate and that no other bond authorization is available.

639 (e) (1) Upon the agreement of the Governor and the Community  
640 Investment Fund 2030 Board, and subsequent to the adoption of a  
641 resolution by the General Assembly affirming the reauthorization of the  
642 board and the program provided for under this section, the State Bond  
643 Commission may authorize the issuance of bonds of the state, in  
644 accordance with the provisions of section 3-20, in principal amounts not  
645 exceeding in the aggregate one billion two hundred fifty million dollars.  
646 The amount authorized for the issuance and sale of such bonds in each  
647 of the following fiscal years shall not exceed the following  
648 corresponding amount for each such fiscal year, except that, to the  
649 extent the State Bond Commission does not provide for the use of all or  
650 a portion of such amount in any such fiscal year, such amount not

651 provided for shall be carried forward and added to the authorized  
 652 amount for the next succeeding fiscal year, and provided further, the  
 653 costs of issuance and capitalized interest, if any, may be added to the  
 654 capped amount in each fiscal year, and each of the authorized amounts  
 655 shall be effective on July first of the fiscal year indicated as follows:

T8	Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Amount
T9	2028	\$250,000,000
T10	2029	250,000,000
T11	2030	250,000,000
T12	2031	250,000,000
T13	2032	250,000,000
T14	Total	\$1,250,000,000

656 (2) The proceeds of the sale of bonds set forth in this subsection shall  
 657 be used for the purpose of funding eligible projects for which the  
 658 Governor has determined under subsection (c) of this section that bond  
 659 funding is appropriate and that no other bond authorization is available.

660 (f) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power  
 661 granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this  
 662 section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by  
 663 the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section. Temporary notes  
 664 in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such  
 665 bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section, and  
 666 from time to time renewed. All bonds issued pursuant to this section  
 667 shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of  
 668 the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of  
 669 and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly  
 670 and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds,  
 671 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
 672 principal and interest is hereby made, and the Treasurer shall pay such  
 673 principal and interest as the same become due.

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>	32-7s
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	32-7x
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	32-285a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the development and implementation of a ten-year plan for each concentrated poverty census tract in the state to eradicate concentrated poverty in the state.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*