



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.

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)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to host a series of regional events advertising the state's opportunity zones; (2) require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to study how the state may incentivize investment in the state's opportunity zones; and (3) expand the role of the Department of Economic and Community Development's Permit Ombudsman to include expediting review of permit applications for projects that would develop any of the state's opportunity zones.

*[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.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.; REP. DIMASSA, 116th Dist.

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